

Watersmeet Township Planning Commission

June 14, 2017

Regular Meeting Minutes

Location: Watersmeet Community Center

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pete Peterson at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Chairman Peterson introduced our new member, Margaret (Peggy) Tuttle. Ms. Tuttle gave a brief bio of her involvement in the Watersmeet community since moving here in 1978.

Roll Call: Members Present: Jeff Zelinski, Jeff Wasson, Pete Peterson, John Cestkowski, Paul Kempainen, Roy D'Antonio, Margaret Tuttle

Members Absent: Giiwe Martin, Jeff Zelinski arrived at 6:50 PM

Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2017 Motion by John Cestkowski and 2nd by Roy D' Antonio. Carried

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Paul Kempainen and 2nd by Roy D'Antonio. Carried

Public Comment: Yvonne Clarke, Long Lake, asked for clarification as to why Pachmayer Special Use Permit was granted. Pete stated the voted was in accordance that the criteria had been met and upon advice from our attorney that if they are met the permit must be approved. A vote should be made based upon the requirements being met as submitted by Zoning Administrator and not by personal opinion. Dave Sherrill suggested that clarification on the short-term rental considering less than 28 days. He felt that the 27 days constituted the total time that the rentals could occur on a yearly basis. Pete said that he would bring this question up to the attorney. Greg Clarke, Long Lake, questioned what it would take to have a short-term rental permit rescinded. Pete said that if they violated explicit terms in the permit.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Dave stated that there were 2 garages, 2 dwellings, 1 land division and 2 docks since our April 2017 meeting. He also made comments concerning short-term rentals to the effect that they were not appropriate unless a lake had a resort. Pete responded that the ordinance is applicable to any lake property regarding short-term rental as long as the requirements had been met.

Possible Grass Ordinance: Paul Kempainen proposed that the Commission should consider instituting a grass cutting ordinance. Considerable discussion occurred and it was decided to look into what other entities have in place and to check with our attorney if he has had any experience. The goal would be to have such an ordinance in place for the summer of 2018.

Master Plan – Updates: Paul Kempainen gave an update on the status of the current plan being ready to present to the Township board. Members were given copies of the objectives and strategies to evaluate as to their need and applicability along with the opportunity to present new ones for the next meeting. The goal is to have the Master Plan ready for submission to the Township Board at its July meeting for approval.

Recreation Plan – Updates: No discussion took place.

Pete informed the Commission that he talked to Supervisor Rogers concerning having informal discussions with the Township Attorney, Mr. Dean, concerning wording in the Zoning Ordinance and particularly those related to Special Use Permits. This would be done in groups of less than 5, so that it would not be considered a Special Meeting. A timetable will be established as soon as suitable dates can be established. The Commission needs to have knowledge of the correct legal positions to take regarding the Zoning Ordinance to be consistent in our decision-making.

Adjournment: Motion by Jeff Wasson , 2nd John Cestkowski. All in Favor. Approved Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Next regular meeting on Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Submitted by: Paul D. Kemppainen – Planning Commission Secretary.