

Watersmeet Township Planning Commission

September 13, 2017

Final and Approved

Regular Meeting Minutes

Location: Watersmeet Community Center

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman Jeff Zelinski at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Roll Call: Members Present: Jeff Zelinski, Jeff Wasson, John Cestkowski, Peggy Tuttle, Paul Kempainen

Members Absent: Pete Peterson, Giiwe Martin, Roy D'Antonio, Craig Hesse

Approval of Minutes of August 9, 2017 Motion by Paul and 2nd by Jeff W. Motion Carried

Approval of Agenda: With addition of Item 8A Setbacks Motion made by Jeff W. and 2nd by John. Motion Carried

Public Comment: Steve Roth asked about digitally recording and saving them. He felt that the acoustics of the building made it hard to hear and if the Township is looking into doing something to address. He felt that a digital recording could be used to answer any questions that could arise in the future. Paul Kempainen said that UPEA had taken pictures of the building and told the Township that we could find someone to address the acoustics issue. Paul will check with Sandy on this tomorrow.

Julie Mathiesen questioned why in the minutes that Pete had mentioned that we needed to look further into having the Health Department requirement for Short-term rental related to septic issues when it is already in the ordinance. She mentioned that she felt that a violation of the short-term rental permit on Clearwater Lake had occurred as a large gathering had taken place and housing other than that implied in the permit had been used for sleeping. She also presented evidence of an on-line advertisement for the property that was a clear violation of their permit in terms of occupancy. Upon discussion of members of the commission it was felt that some sort of letter be sent to the owner regarding the situation. Paul said that he would look into the matter further.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Dave Neumann presented a written report to the board which is attached to the minutes. He stated that the requirements for the Special Use Permit for Brent Moore for Short-Term renting had met the requirements for septic and water for a three bedroom home and the permit is considered complete except that the fee had not yet been paid. Zoning certificates were issued for a garage, #877, to Robert Diehl, E19274 Roddis Rd and a dwelling and garage, #878, to Mark and Diana Sullivan, N3716 Boy Scout Rd.

Setbacks for Zoning Ordinance: Discussion on where the measurement should be taken to determine setback. At the present, Dave Neumann said that he uses the furthest protrusion that is attached to the building. This is not specified directly in the present ordinance and needs clarification. Dave also had a question as to how a Zoning Violation fine can be collected if the

person refuses to acknowledge the Certified Letter explaining the violation. A member of the audience stated that in Ohio that a property lien can be placed for the costs of a violation should the owner disregard fine notifications. A lien on the property can be attached that would have to be cleared before the property could be sold. The planning commission has to look more closely into the process of collecting fines along with other vaguely defined situations in the present Zoning Ordinance.

Master Plan – Updates: Presently sits in the hands of the Township Board for action.

Recreation Plan – Updates: Presently sits in the hands of the Township Board for action.

Possible Grass Ordinance: Some discussion took place relative to the Iron River Ordinance and it was felt that no action should take place at this time, especially in the light of the fact that several members of the Planning Commission were absent tonight.

Adjournment: Motion by Jeff W., 2nd John C. All in Favor. Approved Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Next regular meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2017

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