

Watersmeet Township Planning Commission

November 8, 2017

Final and Approved 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.

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

Members Absent: Giiwegiizhigookway Martin, Roy D'Antonio, Craig Hesse

Public Hearing on Zoning Ordinance Changes: Motion by John and 2nd by Jeff W to go into Public Hearing at 6:32 PM. The proposed changes were recommendations made by Dan Kline, Township Building Inspector at October 11th meeting. There were no objections raised to any of the suggested changes. Peggy Tuttle suggested that the Township consider posting on the website that the Township is zoned and both zoning and building permits are required. Motion by Paul and 2nd by Jeff Z to end Public Hearing at 6:50 PM. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes of October 11, 2017: Motion by Paul and 2nd by John. Motion Carried with Jeff Z. abstaining as he was not at meeting. Julie Mathiesen noted that minutes for October 11th were not on the website within 8 days of last meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Jeff Z and 2nd by Jeff W. Motion Carried

Public Comment: The owner of Wilderness Bay Resort on Thousand Island mentioned that there were inconsistencies on the Township website regarding some of the board members currently serving. Paul said that he would check into this tomorrow.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Dave Neumann filed the following report for activity since our October meeting. E24280 Justice Lane, Frank & Jennifer Demis, an addition, Certificate #882. E25570 Marion Lake Road, Margaret Marrs, garage addition, Certificate #883. Questions were raised by a couple of residents in attendance concerning enforcement of zoning violations.

New Business:

Brent Moore Application for Use by Special Approval for Short-term Rental.

Dave Neumann, Zoning Administrator, felt that the application had met the requirements for a 3 bedroom dwelling. A motion to accept the application was made by Peggy and 2nd by Paul. Motion Carried. Dave Neumann will find the neighboring properties within 300' so that letters can be sent to provide an opportunity for them to request a Public Hearing if they so desire.

Zoning Ordinance Changes.

Motion by John C to strike out item #3 of Section 8.01A Zoning Certificate Requirements and correspondingly change the ordination for current #4 and #5 to #3 and #4. Second by Jeff Z. Motion Carried.

Motion by Paul that in Section 8.02C Fees & Expenses add the following at the end of the first sentence after Administrator, additionally, a penalty of five (5) times the cost of the appropriate building permit that was not sought at the time of construction be assessed . Second by Jeff W. Motion Carried.

Motion by John C that in Section 10.03 Penalties that the following be added as #2 Reinstatement of any Zoning Certificate under this Zoning Ordinance that Zoning Administrator has revoked, suspended, or cancelled due to a violation of this Zoning Ordinance, shall not be valid until the property owner, or agent thereof, pays a fee to the Township Treasurer equal to five (5) times the original Zoning Certificate fee plus any reasonable re-inspection expenses incurred by the Zoning Administrator, additionally, a penalty of five (5) times the cost of the appropriate Building Permit that was not sought at the time of construction will be assessed. The contractor performing the violation is penalized under this ordinance as well, unless the homeowner utilizes an unlicensed contractor in which case the homeowner is responsible for all fees incurred. Failure to pay said fees plus expenses shall also bar the property owner, or agent thereof, from receiving any additional Zoning Certificates under this Zoning Ordinance. Second by Paul. Motion Carried.

The recommended changes will be presented to the Watersmeet Township Board at its next meeting for approval and the corresponding changes being made to the Zoning Ordinance upon their acceptance.

Master Plan – Updates: Has been sent to all of the affected parties for review.

Recreation Plan – Updates: Has been sent to all of the affected parties for review. The USDA Forest Service will be sending changes they would like to the Planning Commission shortly.

Possible Grass Ordinance: Motion to table by Jeff W and 2nd by Jeff Z. Motion Carried

Adjournment: Motion by Jeff Z, 2nd John C. All in Favor. The Commission also agreed to change the date for the December meeting from December 13 to December 12 requested by the Township Board. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Next regular meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2017

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