

Watersmeet Township Planning Commission
January 10, 2018
Final and Approved 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, Roy D'Antonio, Craig Hesse

Members Absent: Giiwegiizhigookway Martin

Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2017 Motion by Jeff Z. and 2nd by Peggy. Motion carried with Pete abstaining.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by John C and 2nd by Craig H with the addition of F, Short-term rental under old business. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Zoning Administrator's Report: Dave Neumann reported that one Land Division is only current item and is not finalized yet. He expressed concerns about including a notice concerning short-term rentals in the assessments in the light of the fact that permits are only required in L1 and L2 even though those doing short-term rental anywhere are subject to Use Tax.

New Business:

There was discussion concerning the possibility of meeting with our township attorney concerning Zoning issues. It was agreed upon that commissioners should address any concerns to Paul so that we can come up with a list of what is considered the most important things that we need clarification on or changes that our attorney might be able to recommend. We will discuss these at our February meeting.

Old Business:

Master Plan – Updates:

Public Hearing notice will be sent out and will be included during February 2018 regular meeting.

Recreation Plan – Updates:

Will be adopted at the same time as the Master Plan

Possible Grass Ordinance: Had been tabled until March 18 meeting but there was discussion that we should have our attorney draw up one if he is able to, so that we could have one in place by May or June of 2018.

Changes sent to Township Board for Zoning Penalties: The Township Board needs to schedule a Public Hearing which will be done during the February 21 meeting. The can then be acted upon and go into effect after 30 days from adoption.

Moore Short-term Rental Status: A Public Hearing will be held during the February 14th regular meeting and

discussion will take place concerning the matter including the three letters received by the Planning Commission Secretary.

Short-term rentals: There was discussion of the lack of penalties for non-compliance. Letters can be sent but if they are ignored there presently isn't any recourse to force compliance with the permits stipulations. In the past there had been talk of limiting the number of permits relative to a lake's size and number of property owners. This is one of the things that could be considered in discussion with our attorney.

Special Note: After item 8A had been addressed. Dave Sherrill noted that we had not nominated and filled the officer positions on the Planning Commission as should be done at the January Organizational Meeting. Secretary Paul had forgotten to include this in the agenda and it had not been added prior to approving the agenda that was being used. Consequently, Roy made a motion and John 2nd that the current officers be retained until the February meeting. Paul will check with Tim Dean whether this is allowable. The by-laws had been checked and it did say that the current officers remain in office for one-year or until a successor is named. Hopefully this will allow us to act on choosing new officers at our next regular meeting.

Adjournment: Motion by Paul, 2nd Jeff W. All in Favor. Approved Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Next regular meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2017

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