

Watersmeet Township Planning Commission
Wednesday, February 14, 2018
Final and Approved
Regular Meeting Minutes

Location: Watersmeet Community Center

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Peterson

Roll Call:

Members Present: Jeff Zelinski, Jeff Wasson, Pete Peterson, John Cestkowski, Peggy Tuttle, Craig Hesse, Paul Kemppainen

Members Absent: Roy D' Antonio and Giiwegiizhigookway Martin

Election of Officers:

Motion by John, 2nd by Peggy to nominate Pete Peterson as Chairman. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Motion by John, 2nd by Jeff W to nominate Jeff Zelinski as Vice-chairman. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Motion by Jeff W, 2nd by Craig to nominate Paul Kemppainen as Secretary. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes of January 10, 2018. Motion by Peggy, 2nd Jeff W. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Craig, 2nd by John. Motion Carried.

Public Hearing: Motion by Craig, 2nd by Jeff W to go into Public Hearing. Roll call vote: 7 yes 0 no. Public hearing began at 6:34 PM. Public Hearing had been published in Daily Globe on January 29, 2018.

First item: Use by Special Approval for Short-term Rental by Brent Moore at E24790 Miser Bay Road, Watersmeet, MI 49969. There were three letters in response from those within the 300' guideline. Two were opposed and one was in favor. There was no public comment. Mr. Moore had met all of the criteria according to zoning administrator, Dave Neumann. The township will notify the state if the permit is awarded for the purpose of collection of Use Tax.

Second item: Watersmeet Master Plan 2018-2022. Copies were available for the public to look at. There was no public comment. Upon approval the Plan will be sent to the Township Board for their consideration and subsequent availability to the public on the website or Township Offices.

Third item: Recreation Plan 2018-2022. There was one comment made by Supervisor Rogers that a road was going to be established to the river in the area of the old water treatment plant on Roundhouse Road. A picnic area has been proposed in the Master and Recreation Plans and would be finished this year.

A motion by John, 2nd by Jeff W. to go back into regular meeting. Roll call vote: Unanimous yes vote. Back into regular meeting at 6:45 PM.

Public Comment:

Dave Lamoreaux read a response that he had received from the Michigan Department of Treasury concerning the collection of Use Tax. Use Tax is collectible for anyone, in any zoning area, for persons using the property for a period of less than 28 days. The state has the responsibility to collect the fees but can only do so for the entities that they are aware of, it is not a local responsibility.

Zoning Administrator's Report:

Dave Neumann reported that there was one Land Division done for Greg and Kathy Terzinski on Duck Lake.

New Business:

The commission is going to contact Mr. Dean about the possibility of meeting on either the 1st or 4th Wednesday of March regarding recommendations that he has for our short-term rental section of the Zoning Ordinance, a possible Grass Ordinance, civil penalties for violations of the Zoning Ordinance and in particular, short-term rentals, the modification of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for 2nd dwellings on property other than those in L1 and L2 classification. The meeting would be for informational purposes only. No formal action will be taken by the commission.

Old Business:

Master Plan: A motion by Craig, 2nd by Jeff W. to send the Plan to the Township Board for approval. Motion Carried.

Recreation Plan: A motion by Jeff W, 2nd by Jeff Z. to send the Plan to the Township Board for approval. Motion Carried.

Grass Ordinance: A motion by Paul, 2nd by Jeff W. to table until next meeting. Motion carried.

Township Board for action on Zoning Penalties: This will be done at the February 21, Township Board meeting.

Moore Use by Special Approval: Recommendations were read from the Zoning Administrator. The fee had been paid. Public Hearing held. Recommendation was made for an 8 person maximum occupancy. The state will also be informed that the short-term rental usage is involved relative to Use Tax. Motion by Paul, 2nd by Jeff W. Motion carried 6 yeas, 1 nay (Craig).

Short-term rentals: Several comments were made relative to informing the state for Use Tax collection, the difficulty of people going through the Permit process and the reporting of people who have not sought a permit event though doing short-term rentals. It is hoped that when talking to the attorney we will get additional information to help us better deal with this issue.

Adjournment: Motion by John, 2nd by Jeff W. Motion Carried. Meeting ended 7:22 PM.

Next Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Submitted by: Paul D. Kemppainen – Planning Commission Secretary