

Minutes:

Watersmeet Township Planning Commission

Regular Meeting of December 9, 2015

USFS Conference Room

- 1) **Meeting called to order** by Chairman Roy D'Antonio at 6:30 PM.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance** was given.
- 3) **Roll Call:** Members present included; Chairman Roy D'Antonio, Vice Chairman Dave Sherrill, Township Board Liaison-Rich Henriksen, Jeff Zelinski, John Cestkowski, Larry Potter, Jeff Wasson, Pete Peterson and Giwegiizhigookway Martin. Zoning Administrator –Dave Neumann was also present. Members of the community present included; Pat Walsh, Craig Hesse, Peggy Tuttle and Julie Mathiesen. With all nine Planning Commission members present, the requirements for a quorum were met and business could be conducted.
- 4) **Approval of Agenda/Changes:** Vice Chairman David Sherrill asked that the agenda be amended to remove "Master Plan" heading as the complete updated Master Plan has been turned over to the Town Board. Add summary of new tribal medical center as number 9. This was supported by Jeff Zelinsky. A unanimous "Yes" vote followed.
- 5) **Public Hearing:** The notice for the Public Hearing was incomplete. There was no address to where written comments could be sent. The new wording was not shown as to how it would be incorporated in the appropriate paragraph. The Public Hearing will be delayed on a motion by David Sherrill with support from Pete Peterson.
- 6) **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the October 14th meeting were approved as written on a motion by David Sherrill with support from John Cestkowski. A unanimous "Yes" vote followed. The minutes of the November 11th meeting were approved as written on a motion again by David Sherrill with support from Larry Potter. A unanimous "Yes" vote again followed.
- 7) **Zoning Administrator's Report:** Dave Neumann stated that he approved permits for one dwelling, and one cell phone tower near Crystal Lake (at Wisconsin State Line).

- 8) **Recreation Plan Update:** Chairman D’Antonio suggested that a public survey would be necessary to update the rec-plan. Giiwegiizhigookway agreed to update the Tribal section. Our existing plan is very “rich” with detail compared with the newest plans from Ironwood and Bessemer. We need a plan to update the plan. Suggestions arose regarding a shooting range accessible to the public. Bob Zelinsky is updating the history section. Peggy Tuttle suggested a community compost facility (without banana peels). Pete Peterson suggested a community garden. Pete Peterson will update the “education” section as “going green” is currently hot within school. The section involving the Town Board will be updated by Rich Henriksen. There was talk of making the Township “SPARKLE”. We need to create a Police Power or Enforcement Ordinance to address the blight which is running rampant in the neighborhood bordered by Blair and Wilbur Streets. We still need to engage with the public to find and identify a recreational activity not available to Watersmeet Township residents, or we are just wasting time. A survey is the solution at cost of approximately \$1,400.00 for two way postage. David Sherrill will prepare the updated survey with a view to helping our Recreation Plan. The underutilized Gym at the school was discussed at some length. The availability of a personal trainer could help. Giiwegiizhigookway would like to change the look of the plan to include a time-line showing the progress. This should include the cultural, emotional and physical components of life in Watersmeet Township.
- 9) **Tribal Medical Facility:** Rich Henriksen was asked to provide a brief overview of the presentation that was delivered to the Town Board’s November meeting, by Giiwe’s daughter. The structural steel is being erected and is quite visible across Highway 45 from the Casino complex. The facility represents a \$12 Million investment. The completion date for this 32,000 square foot facility is scheduled for August 2016. Thanks to Julie Mathiesen for loaning Rich her copy of the handout from the Town Board Meeting.
- 10) **Public Comments:** Pat Walsh complained that Thousand Island Road is getting low priority for repair. He also thinks internet access needs a boost. Thirdly he believes that what is going on with the blight on Blair and Wilbur Streets is unacceptable. Craig Hesse says roads are a component of the Recreation Plan as you have to use the roads to get to resorts and recreation sites. The old gas station property on the Southwest corner of US 2 and US 45 is a contaminated “Superfund” site. So far, still nothing can be done with it. Peggy Tuttle wondered aloud if Jack Tadesch owns the little building immediately south of the hotel. She thinks the paper covering its windows makes it look boarded up like a “little creepy place”.
- 11) **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM by David Sherrill, with support from Pete Peterson. Unanimous “Yes” vote followed.

Respectfully submitted by: *Rich Henriksen* – Planning Commission Secretary