

Minutes:
Watersmeet Township Planning Commission

Special Meeting of October 23, 2013

Watersmeet Township Office

- 1) Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman D'Antonio at 6:30 PM.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance was given.
- 3) Roll Call: Members Present: Members Present: Vice Chairman-Roy D'Antonio, Secretary John Neumann, Township Board Liaison-Rich Henriksen, Larry Potter, Pete Peterson, Jeff Wasson, and new member David Sherrill were in attendance. A quorum being present, business could be officially conducted.

Members of the community present: Member of the community present was Township Supervisor Mike Rogers.

4) Approval of Agenda/Changes

There was a discussion to add to the agenda the appointment of a temporary Vice-Chairman to run meetings when the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are not present.

A motion was made by Jeff Wasson and 2nd by David Sherrill to approve the item 6 addition. All in favor.

5) Master Plan Update

There was a discussion about the current Master Plan and the consensus was that much of the Master Plan would not be changed as the topics and goals within the document are boilerplate and still apply.

David Sherrill reviewed the Master Plan and stated that he has put together a comprehensive list of tasks that the Planning Commission could possibly address. We have to determine what the previous PC completed and what wasn't completed to understand what tasks this PC will have to perform.

There was a long discussion concerning several portions of the Master Plan so we can determine our best options for going forward. There was a short discussion on the use of the word rural within the Plan and it was determined that rural was probably an accurate term when referring to Watersmeet.

Secretary Neumann requested that we discuss several portions of the document he had made notes on. The first discussion of the Plan was about expanding utilities. There have been changes to the landscape since the last Master Plan was formulated that will change the previous goals.

This change would add the goal of adding utilities South of town instead of North as the land North is owned by the LVD Tribe and they have their own utilities. The goal of expanding West would be important, in Pete Peterson's opinion, because of the hydraulics of the current water system. The Township has too many dead ends to make the system work efficiently and looping to the West would improve the system. There are several houses that are West of Town that could be added and may be worth looking at in the future.

There was a short discussion about blight and noise ordinances and whether we should get involved in creating an ordinance for both. Supervisor Rogers stated that the process of going through the Township Attorney is difficult to enforce this rule which has already been tried through the court system. He didn't believe we should get involved because it's very hard to separate someone's junk from another person's treasure besides being very hard to enforce. Everyone agreed that blight is a serious concern but there wasn't any decision made one way or the other. Esthetics of the town has to be considered as a very important part of retaining families/businesses and enticing new families/businesses to reside in Watersmeet. It was recommended that we plan a meeting with all businesses within Watersmeet to get their recommendations on how we can help them within this Master Plan.

High property taxes, especially on lakes, is a concern and identified as one of the reasons there are several people selling in Watersmeet Township and moving to Wisconsin side of the Cisco Chain.

There was a concern that the Federal Forest Service is hindering our recreational development by closing off roads to 4-wheelers. In addition, it seems they may not be issuing as many logging permits in the national forest as in prior years that could be affecting our deer herd by limiting feed. This has affected the number of hunters coming into the area.

Eurasian Milfoil in our lakes was discussed and increased Township involvement was recommended by John Neumann.

David Sherrill stated that he would send out a list of objectives and tasks to all PC members that he has developed from the current Master Plan that we can review and comment on at the next meeting.

It was also discussed that involvement from the Tribe in our Master Plan is important. David Sherrill volunteered to meet with the Tribe if the PC thinks it a good idea. He would like to have someone else from the PC to accompany him.

- 6) David Sherrill was nominated to act as temporary Vice Chairman if the current Chairman and Vice Chairman are not present for a meeting. Motion was made by Pete Peterson and 2nd was by Jeff Wasson. All in favor.
- 7) There weren't any public comments.
- 8) Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Pete Peterson and 2nd by Roy D'Antonio. All in Favor at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

John Neumann – Planning Commission Secretary

DRAFT