

Watersmeet Township Planning Commission
Wednesday, November 13, 2019
Final and Approved Regular Meeting Minutes
Location: Watersmeet Community Center

Meeting called to order by Paul Kemppainen at 5:00 PM

Roll Call:

Members Present: John Cestkowski, Peggy Tuttle, Craig Hesse, Yvonne Clark, Paul Kemppainen

Members Absent: Jeff Zelinski, Jeff Wasson, Pete Peterson, Roy D'Antonio

Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2019 Motion by Yvonne and 2nd by John. Motion Carried

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Yvonne and 2nd by Craig. Motion Carried

Public Comment: Roberta Giannola expressed concerns about the gravel pit to be located adjacent to their property and the proximity to their home and business. She also expressed concerns about possible environmental effects of the proposed pit and the location of the current entrance to the pit and the speed of traffic in the area.

Julie Mathiesen questioned whether the road commission has a definitive plan on how the pit would be operated in the future.

Carole Yakel addressed the Commission about the pending sale of The Arrows to their son Bryan. They had originally planned on building up to 14 dwellings on the property but only two had been built. Bryan would like to create an RV trailer coach park with electrical and water/sewer hookups. He would intend to set up for 5 to 10 spots. She would like us to check into whether this is an allowable use or would require a variance being issued.

Zoning Administrator's Report:

Zoning Applications for October 2019

Location	Owner	Structure
23857 B-Ave	Julia Jackson	SFD Addition
19233 Roddis Road	Lauri Cooney	Garage
5062 W. Langford Lake Rd.	Dennis Routheaux	Garage
3866 Maplewood Rd.	Al Ison	SFD Addition & Garage

One application for Use by Special Approval for Short-term rental by Barb Dobson property at address 21879 Crooked Lake Road.

Also a land split for Bob Baldassari property on Indian Lake.

Old Business:

Paul has created a note to be placed in the Winter Tax 2019 bills referencing police contact information, ambulance update, free dump day for property owners and the need to apply for short-term rental permits if doing so for less than 28 days. It will be a separate item and on a colored sheet of paper to draw attention to it by taxpayers.

Discussion was held concerning the County Road Commission gravel pit on Old US 2 East and its impact on residents living nearby. The Township Board has received a notice from the Road Commission attorney regarding the legality of operating the pit and whether a request had to be sent to the Planning Commission. Mike Rogers forwarded the letter to our attorney, Tim Dean, for a legal opinion as to what the Township can do concerning the gravel pit. Yvonne Clark requested that a copy of the letter from the Road Commission be made available along with the letter that Lac Vieux Desert Tribe had sent over environmental concerns. She felt that a FOIA request could be sent to the Road Commission addressing all that had been done concerning the operation of the gravel pit.

Peggy encouraged members of the commission to express their views on the gravel pit. She is strongly against it and the impacts she feels that it will have upon those living in close proximity, in terms of their property values and environmental and public safety concerns.

There is a bill in the Michigan Senate, #431, which will take away local say over gravel mining, and has not been acted upon yet.

Discussion of setbacks as a basis for conformity was not addressed due to small attendance at the meeting and the fact that Mr. Gary Pisoni could not make the meeting to give his perspectives on how this issue is dealt with by other townships. This item will be on the January 8, 2020 agenda for further discussion and review.

New Business: Craig Hesse presented a letter to be given to the Township Board that he is not interested in serving on the Commission after December 31, 2019 when his term expires. The Commission thanked him for service and will forward the letter.

A possible special meeting could be called if we felt that another person could be brought on board prior to the reorganization meeting in January 2020.

Adjournment: Motion by Yvonne and 2nd by Craig. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned 6:25 PM.

Next Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Submitted by: Paul D. Kemppainen – Planning Commission Secretary