

Watersmeet Township Planning Commission
Wednesday, January 8, 2020
Special Meeting Minutes

Location: Watersmeet Community Center

Meeting called to order by Chairman Peterson at 5:00 PM

Roll Call:

Members Present: Pete Peterson, John Cestkowski, Roy D'Antonio, Yvonne Clark, Russell Diethert, Yvonne Clark, and Paul Kempainen

Members Absent: Jeff Wasson, Bruce Caudill and Jeff Zelinski Jeff Zelinski arrived late at 5:15 PM.

Election of Officers: Motion by Roy and 2nd by John to nominate Pete Peterson as Chairman. Motion Carried.

Motion by John and 2nd by Pete to nominate Roy D'Antonio was Vice-Chairman. Motion Carried.

Motion by Roy and 2nd by John to nominate Paul Kempainen as Secretary. Motion Carried.

John has already been appointed as the Planning Commission to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Approval of Minutes of November 11, 2019. Motion by Yvonne and 2nd by John. Motion carried. Roy and Russ abstained.

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

Public Comment: None

Zoning Administrator's Report:

There were no zoning permits issued for either November or December 2019.

The following inquiries were made:

3 about short-term rentals

1 application for a short-term rental

2 inquiries for land divisions

1 application for a land division

There were also several phone calls for background checks on previous permits and background history on land parcels.

Old Business:

A motion was made by Paul and 2nd by Yvonne to correct the placement of language in the Zoning ordinance restoring the wording in **Section 6.01 1a. Single family residential structure** and to add to **Section 6.02A #11 More than on family residential structure as long as setback requirements are met along with separate well and septic systems for each structure.** Motion carried.

Paul informed the commission of the Township attorney's opinion on whether the Gogebic County Road Commission had to seek a Special Use Permit to operate the gravel pit located on Old USE across from the Watersmeet Trout Hatchery. Mr. Dean felt that the Road Commission was within its rights in operating the pit without a special permit.

Yvonne asked the Planning Commission to see whether there was an alternative location and Roy responded as he is the chairman of the Road Commission stating that other alternatives have been exhausted and the Road Commission feels that it is their last option.

Julie Mathiesen did note that the Road Commission had done due diligence in efforts regarding alternative sights as well as environmentally.

After more discussion regarding the issue, Paul said that he would create a letter to send to the Road Commission asking them to address as much as possible the concerns of those owning the Trout Hatchery and other affected property owners.

New Business:

A motion was made by John and 2nd by Russ that the Planning Commission meet on the following dates for the remainder of 2020 with a starting time of 5:30 PM, this represents a change from the time we have been meeting. The dates are all Wednesdays and are March 11, May 13, July 8, September 9 and November 11. Motion Carried. In the event a Special Meeting would need to be called, it will be on the website and posted in the Post Office and Township Office.

Adjournment: Motion by Yvonne and 2nd by Roy. Motion Carried. Meeting ended at 6:05 PM

Next Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 5:30 PM

Submitted by: Paul D. Kempainen – Planning Commission Secretary