

Township of
WATERSMEET
Planning Commission

Wednesday, November 11, 2020
Regular Virtual Meeting Minutes

Location: Watersmeet Community Center

Meeting called to order by Chairman Peterson at 5:30 PM

Attending remotely: Commissioner Bruce Caudill, Dave Lamoreaux and Greg Clark.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Jeff Zelinski, Jeff Wasson, Pete Peterson, John Cestkowski, Russ Diethert, Bruce Caudill attending remotely, Roy D'Antonio, Yvonne Clark, Paul Kempainen

Members Absent:

Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2020 with revision of draft. Motion by Yvonne and 2nd by Jeff Wasson. Roll Call Vote: John, Yes, Russ Yes, Yvonne, Yes, Jeff Z, Yes, Pete, Yes, Jeff W, Yes, Roy, Yes, Paul, Yes, Bruce, Yes.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Roy and 2nd by John. Roll Call Vote: John, Yes, Russ Yes, Yvonne, Yes, Jeff Z, Yes, Pete, Yes, Jeff W, Yes, Roy, Yes, Paul, Yes, Bruce, Yes.

Public Comment: None

Zoning Administrator's Report: Dan Kline gave a report for October and November 2020 as follows.

Scott Saverail	Goodrich Rd.	Garage
Pete Cartwright	Palmquist Rd.	Garage W/Dwelling
Tom Sturdivant	Otter Lane	Dwelling & Garage
Jack Brightnose	Gallagher St.	Mobile Homes (5)

His zoning applications were denied. Other violations exist and I am working on resolving zoning ordinance issues related to the motor homes and junk.

Brian & Traci Strachota	Wolniak Rd.	Dwelling, Garage, Dock
Neil Anderson	Old US2 W	Garage

Greg Broom	Wright Rd.	
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He bought DNR vacant land that was too small to build on. A camper was moved on property L-1 and he started to build a roof over the camper. I issued a stop work order on site to owner.

Brad Olson

S. Moon Lake Rd.

He built a lean-to on garage and a fence with no permits adjoining neighbor's property. I am working on resolving the situation.

Old Business: There was considerable discussion about the current language in the zoning ordinance related to short-term rentals in L-1 and L-2. Paul had copies of the pages in current Zoning Ordinance relative to short-term rental for commissioners. Short-term language permits and applications should state that the intent is not for commercial purposes. A local agent is necessary for contact purposes should problems arise. Those renting upon completion of a successful application for a permit are required by state law to collect use tax. There was discussion as to the protocol to use when approving permits and what should be acceptable based upon the ordinance and the master plan which states that L1 and L2 should be residential as their primary purpose. Some language changes should be made in the ordinance to clearly define why and how short-term renting should be handled. It was proposed that a statement be placed on the township website concerning short-term renting in L1 and L2 which would clarify the procedure in how to obtain a short-term permit but also letting potential buyers know that the use of such properties is intended to be for residential and not strictly commercial use. Paul and Dan will look at creating a webpage notice and the commissioners will be sent any proposed item for the webpage. At some point in the future language, in the zoning ordinance needs to be added or changed to inform potential buyers of what is considered the primary use of L1 and L2 properties.

Dan suggested that the following items be put on the next agenda under new business. The language related to camper-trailers in the zoning ordinance. The issue of depth of a parcel in determining conformity for building purposes.

Members of the commission also expressed the need to look into how to have better internet service provided to the areas outside of town. Increased usage has greatly diminished the quality of the service people are receiving through the NMU site especially.

The January 2021 meeting will be the organizational meeting and the election of new officers will take place.

New Business: None

Adjournment: Motion by Yvonne and 2nd by John. Roll Call Vote: John, Yes, Russ Yes, Yvonne, Yes, Jeff Z, Yes, Pete, Yes, Jeff W, Yes, Roy, Yes, Paul, Yes, Bruce, Yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Next Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Submitted by: Paul D. Kempainen – Planning Commission Secretary