

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
April 12, 2021 – 6:30pm
Meeting Taped and In-Person

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Don Magnuson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Donald Magnuson, Arthur Gischia, Randy Ruppel, Dustin Kennedy, Aaron Carr – Present. Also, present Fred VanLuven (Zoning Administrator), Erin Stratton (recording Secretary).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was in order.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion by Ruppel, supported by Gischia to approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2021 Planning Commission. Ayes - 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Schuhknecht reported that Dotty LaJoye will be attending the May meeting in regards to the Rec Plan that was approved by the Ely Board. Two items were added to the Agenda by Magnuson, the Hazard Mitigation to Old Business and Annual Report to New Business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Magnuson recommended Approval of the Agenda. Motion by Ruppel, supported by Kennedy to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes - 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

OLD BUSINESS

Ruppel attended the US Hwy 41 Corridor meeting, all read minutes and had no questions.

Discussion about the Marijuana Ordinance started with VanLuven discussing other townships including Richmond and Negaunee. The Commission decided to table any further discussion until the May meeting, where VanLuven will bring copies of all Ordinances in neighboring Townships to compare.

Gischia discussed the Hazard Mitigation as he investigated applying for grants for generators for the pumps. There are other options, including a surplus sale, where the township would only be responsible for the shipping. This will be further inquired on for sale times and shipping costs.

NEW BUSINESS

Gauthier's Conditional Use was discussed as there was a discrepancy over the scales that VanLuven would use to determine whether he could approve their request. Three total will need Public Hearings and Letters sent to residents. The Public Hearing will be at the May meeting.

Magnuson received correspondence regarding submitting an Annual Report online by June.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The report contains 5 requests from residents, and VanLuven stated he needed to verify each property and its current zone. Discussion into adding Solar as an option, but as Residential or Recreational Zoned parcels. Carr stated he is doing a EGLE webinar in regards to Solar tomorrow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Slawski approached the Board in inquiring about Solar panels for his property at the Diorite School. He wants to put up temporary ones at this time to generate power so he can build a fence and start renovations to turn into his residence. He had not paid for any permits yet and had turned in application that day. Slawski was advised to apply for fence permit and asked for more information on prior solar builds he has done. VanLuven also wants a more precise site plan.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business, Magnuson adjourned the meeting at 7:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Stratton, Recording Secretary