

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
August 12, 2024 - 6:00pm
Meeting Taped and In-Person

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ruppel called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Cheryl Grove, Steve Bertucci Jr., Michael Anderson, Alan Harris, and Randy Ruppel – Present. Also present Leah Dompierre, Recording Secretary, and Jeremy Laakso, Zoning Administrator.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was in order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Anderson to approve the agenda, with support from Harris. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Harris to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Bertucci Jr. Ayes - 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE - None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

All new approved zoning permits were discussed.

A resident from the Twin Pines neighborhood inquired about properties in violation of the restrictive covenants for the Twin Pines subdivision. Covenants date back to the 1970s when subdivision was first placed, unclear as to who enforces. Asked MTA attorneys for further advice.

On-going:

- Slawski/Old Diorite School: The fence is still up and is in violation of court ruling. Solar panels appear to be removed. Oil spill from last year is still being investigated.
- Carello/Beaupied: Cleanup appears to have been halted and Mr. Carello is still incarcerated. The person who had been assisting with cleanup is also incarcerated.
- Warlin/Chipman: Ms. Chipman submitted "official" paperwork showing goats are Emotional Support Animals. Forwarded to Attorney Zappa who stated that unless they become a problem, no further action should be taken.

Jeremy Laakso, Zoning Administrator

OLD BUSINESS

- A. The US-41 Corridor Meeting Minutes were discussed.
- B. Master Plan Discussion –Initial decision to hold Public Hearing for Master Plan Review at the August 12th meeting was halted due to steps missed. Master Plan Draft must first be submitted to Township Board for review and comments. Upon review of current draft, there appears to be information that has yet to be updated and added and is not ready to be brought to Board yet. All PC members will review and bring revisions to September 9th meeting. Once revisions are complete, the draft will then be forwarded to the Board for review and comments before distribution for further comments.
- C. 40 Acre Greenwood Property Plan/Discussion – ZA Laakso said the Board would like an update on plan for township-owned property. RFP was put on hold by former PC member Carr stating that plan for property should be in place before doing so. Suggested uses for property were discussed, including walking trails, disc golf course, dog park. Discussion regarding a survey asking residents for input be sent out, was decided that low response in the past would not warrant the work of sending one out. Anderson stated that NMU has an Outdoor Recreation program that can create and map out trails, Scott Jordan or Jacquie Medina are point of contacts for program. UP Disc Golf also assists with creating and mapping out disc golf courses in the area. ZA Laakso recommends the Secretary draft a letter to be sent to organizations asking for assistance and opinions on property. RFP for parking lot and driveway will also need to be done for access off Co Rd 496.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Review of Responsibilities as a Planning Commission/By-Laws/Officers – The responsibilities of PC members were discussed and reiterated. Previous ZA had been making and distributing Agenda, all future Agendas will be done by Chair and distributed by Recording Secretary.
- B. Ely Township Sign Facing US 41 – it was brought up at a Board Meeting that now since the trees have been cleared behind the Hall, it might be helpful to have signage visible along the highway showing where the Township Hall is. Discussion regarding right of

way if placing on highway, or if letters should just be installed on building similar to front of building.

- C. Barrier for Solar Panels – Discussion was had regarding what type of barrier to place around solar panels. Must also be mindful of snow removal during the winter months. There have been no reports of anyone tampering with panels and no issues regarding safety. Motion by Grove, supported by Anderson, to wait until the Township has had the solar panels for all seasons before it is decided what should be placed around them. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

BOARD COMMENTS

Al Harris would like to suggest that everyone look and review the Master Plan draft so that all necessary revisions can easily and efficiently be done at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39pm by Chair Ruppel.

Respectfully submitted,
Leah Dompierre, Recording Secretary