

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
August 11, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Taped and In-Person

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Randy Ruppel, Julie Hosang, Michael Anderson– Present.

Also present Danielle Burke, Recording Secretary, Ed Young, Zoning Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Anderson to approve the agenda, with support from Hosang. Ayes –3, Nays – 0.
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Hosang to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Anderson. Ayes - 3, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

- A. A representative from Peninsula Solar stated that he was here for the following conditional use meeting and that the trees in front of Ely Township need to be trimmed. He will text Supervisor Laakso to let him know.
- B. Ms. Andrea Daar, professor from Northern Michigan University, inquired about having her class continue with the vacant 40-acre lot project. She offered for her class to look for some funding opportunities to alleviate the cost of the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

- A. Zoning Permits:
 - a. Sheryl Tyni-garage
 - b. Seth Smith-house
 - c. Kelly Conery-conditional use house

- d. William Pepin Jr-conditional use solar panels
- B. Violation(s): Nothing New
- C. Complaints:
 - a. Carello has moved an old mobile home onto his property without permits
 - b. Suspicion of a small campground being built without permits on 581
- D. On-going:
 - a. Former Diorite School: wooden fence appears to be being installed without township approval
 - b. Carello/Beaupied: mobile home has been moved onto the property
 - c. Jerzi's: Work to continue in spring. Supervisor Laakso sent an email to owner for status update and still have not received a response
 - d. Harsila's Junk Yard: Ongoing cleanup
 - e. Dan Moore/Kona Lane: I sent out a letter and have received a response in the form of a conditional use permit application
- 2. New Developments: None.
- 3. Training: None.
- 4. Phone Calls: Mr. Andrew Slawski (Diorite School) called and asked what could be done as far as rezoning or conditional use permits to allow him to make use of the non-conforming structures on his property

Ed Young, Zoning Administrator

OLD BUSINESS

- A. *US-41 Corridor Meeting Minutes*: Ruppel read the minutes from the July 8, 2025 US-41 Corridor Advisory Group meeting. Next meeting is August 12, 2025
- B. *Master Plan/CUPPAD Updates*: Jessica Walter from CUPPAD distributed new DRAFT copies of the master plan to the PC members. She stated that a housing projections section was added due to state requirements. Sections 4 & 5 were added to the draft. This is mostly information, nothing too analytical. The master plan process is currently near the end of the "fact book". Next month, Ms. Walter will be bringing a presentation for goals and objectives for the next section.
- C. *Iron Ore Heritage Trail Meeting Updates*: Anderson attended the most recent meeting. He stated that the Lakanenland extension project will not happen. They had to reject any bids that they received. The IOHT board will be having each municipality give presentations for visions or goals that the municipality would like to see on their part of the IOHT. The board discussed what they would like to see for when Anderson presents.

NEW BUSINESS—None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. The Peninsula Solar representative spoke about how conditional use permits are very time-consuming for the township and the property owner.

BOARD COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m. by Chair Ruppel

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Burke, Recording Secretary