

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
December 13, 2021 - 6:30pm
Meeting Taped and In-Person

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairperson Randy Ruppel called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Arthur Gischia, Randy Ruppel, Dustin Kennedy, Steven Bertucci Jr. and Aaron Carr – Present. Also, present - Erin Stratton, Recording Secretary and Fred VanLuven, Zoning Administrator.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was in order.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion by Gischia, supported by Carr to approve the Minutes of the November 8, 2021 Planning Commission Meeting. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Stratton presented correspondence from EGLE in regards to the campground at the Amvets. They are adding 5 campground sites and have approval from EGLE. Van Luven stated that he will reach out to Terry Carlson, as no Zoning Compliance Permits have been filed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gischia made a motion to approve, with support from Carr. Ayes - 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation Plan Update – Ryan Carrig – To finalize the Recreation Plan, the budget numbers from the last two years are needed and will get from the Clerk. Gischia commented that he was surprised that the average income in Ely Township is higher than the county. Carrig stated that the Recreation Plan needs to be available to the public to review for 30 days and have a Public Hearing. This will need to be done at the January meeting. It then needs to be approved by the Board, and ideally be submitted to the DNR by February 1 to be eligible for grants. Gischia asked for clarification on the pages that had the survey results and the merry-go-rounds on repairing or replacing. It was also discussed that the surveys that were done cannot be indicative of the Township as a whole, since only 22 were completed. Ruppel asked for confirmation that Clarksburg is the only ballfield in the Township. Carrig mentioned that a DNR sign was missing from Gold Mine Lake. Gischia made a motion to forward the draft of the Recreation Plan to the Board and to post the Plan on websites for the required 30-day review. The motion was seconded by Kennedy. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

B. Recreation Discussion – Picnic Table Information – Carr presented his estimate for the picnic tables as well as the hard pack needed at the parks. Gischia inquired on the possible need for site engineering also being an additional cost. Carr believed that there is already an ADA compliant table at the Diorite Park. The estimates are based on a model of table that is around \$800.00 each, and installation and engineering would be ideally done by volunteers. Carr recommended that the two parks that should be prioritized are Clarksburg and Ely Township Hall. Kennedy agreed as he mentioned the Hall not having seating at all meanwhile hosting events. A motion was made by Carr to initially install hard pack and picnic tables at the two high traffic parks in 2022. Gischia added that possibly doing more parks as time and budget allows. The motion was seconded by Kennedy. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0.

C. Update on US41 Corridor Meeting - Minutes were emailed to all members and they were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Supervisor Presentation- Supervisor Jeremy Laakso thanked the Planning Commission for their service and work through the last few months and transitions. He mentioned that there are still two open seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He handed out the By-Laws and mentioned that they have not been updated since 2004. He also thanked everyone for doing the training, and mentioned that it was a preventative measure asked to be done by the insurance company. Moving forward he sees the Planning Commission working positively and offered up any help if ever needed from him.

B. a. Meeting Dates – Discussion was had in regards to the November typical day for the meeting being on November 14th, the night before Michigan Deer Season. Carr, Kennedy, Ruppel, and Bertucci all stated that they had no problem with that day. Gischia only questioned the likelihood of lack of Public Comment being available on that day. Stratton mentioned that the Township Board would be having a similar discussion at their meeting Wednesday in regards to their

meeting being on November 16. Laakso reiterated that regardless if the Board moved their meeting or not, the Planning Commission could decide on their own. It was a general consensus to leave the meeting as is.

b. Election will be at the January meeting.

C. Annual Report- Carr took the Zoning Compliance Permits from 2021 to compile for the Annual Report. It was discussed whether the Annual Report follows the calendar year or the fiscal year. Gischia suggested to keep it consistent and follow the calendar year. Ruppel will be finishing the full Annual Report.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Van Luven reported that there have not been any further complaints in regards to the Harsila Junk yard. He stated that he received two applications from Holli to rezone and a conditional use for parcels for sale in the Timber Production district. He recommended that this property be rezoned to Resource Production, and the conditional use would allow for a residence on the property. This is being done by Holli as the current owner, and is contingent on the sale. The public hearing will be at the January 10th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Ruppel at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Stratton, Recording Secretary