

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
December 9, 2024 – 6:00pm
Meeting Taped and In-Person

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Michael Anderson, Randy Ruppel, John Jessen, Julie Hosang, and Ken Hill – Present. Also present Jeremy Laakso, Supervisor/Zoning Administrator, Danielle Burke, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was in order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Anderson to amend the agenda to add Iron Ore Heritage Trails Representative discussion, with support from Hill. Ayes –5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Hill to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Jessen. Ayes - 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE – Office Manager Burke summarized an email from NMU professor Andrea Daar regarding her classes final presentations on the vacant property in Ely Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

All new approved zoning permits were discussed.

A. *Brocky Lake Yurt/Platform*

Violations/Complaints:

- a. *Quinnell Property*: Appears to be in violation of the Ely Township Zoning ordinance. Operating a campground on County Road CH and research is going to continue.

On-going:

- A. *Slawski/Old Diorite School*: Fence is still up. Attorney was going to attempt to contact the owner but haven't heard anything back
- B. *Carello/Beaupied*: the township attorney attended the court hearing and stated that property could not be cleaned if Carello was not available
- C. *444 CKK, Champion*: Found property owners new address and sent a letter to that address. Letter was accepted but haven't heard anything back
- D. *Slab on Brocky Lake*: slab wasn't permitted and sent a letter to property owners and Codes but still waiting for a reply
- E. *Jerzi's*: Met with neighbors who have concerns about fencing, roads, and curbs. Police do not traffic area except for spring road restrictions
- F. *Zoning Administrator Vacancy*: Interviewed two applicants for the Zoning Administrator position
- G. *Co Rd. CJ*: Sent a letter to owners about structure being 1 foot from property line. According to the zoning ordinance, structures needs to be at least 15 feet from property lines.

Jeremy Laakso, Zoning Administrator

OLD BUSINESS

- A. *Master Plan/CUPPAD Updates*: Jessica Walker from CUPPAD answered questions regarding the process for a new/updated Master Plan. There were updates made to the most current master plan. Office Manager Burke will find that file and send it over to Ms. Walker. Ms. Walker will also send over some information to pass along to the board and will also attend the next Planning Commission meeting on January 13, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. *Jerzi's Complaints*: Supervisor Laakso gave the Planning Commission a brief overview of the complaints regarding Jerzi's and their property. A letter was sent to Jason Niemi, owner of Jerzi's, about the complaints and what needs to be resolved.
- B. *EGLE Planning and Zoning for Battery Energy Storage Systems*: Board looked over a booklet sent from EGLE and the University of Michigan Center for Empowering Communities about renewable energy battery storage. Supervisor Laakso discussed that with the growing popularity of renewable energy, it would be smart to be familiar how it affects zoning and best to help the community understand what is allowed on their property
- C. *Iron Ore Heritage Trail Representative discussion*: Motion made by Jessen and seconded by Hill to recommend planning commission member Anderson to be the Ely Township representative on the Iron Ore Heritage Trail committee. Supervisor Laakso will bring the recommendation to the Ely Township board meeting on Wednesday, December 18.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

BOARD COMMENTS – Planning Commission member Hill provided an update on the Barnes Hecker Memorial. The property owners are currently hunting and would like to discuss this project once hunting season is over.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m. by Chair Ruppel.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Burke, Recording Secretary