

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
July 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, Aaron Carr, Dustin Kennedy – Present. Also, present Fred VanLuven, Zoning Administrator and Erin Stratton, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was in order.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion by Ruppel, supported by Kennedy to approve the Minutes of the June 14, 2021 Planning Commission Meeting. Ayes - 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Stratton presented a letter from Jim Janofski opposing any Marijuana Ordinance. She also presented a letter from Marquette County in regards to the Planning Commission approving the Re-zoning of two parcels belonging to Cody Martin and Brian Kuopus.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. CUPPAD Update – Dotty LaJoye presented the results from the Recreation Survey that was conducted last summer. She was not impressed with the return, as only 22 residents completed the survey. LaJoye suggested another type of survey, as in person, at some community event, but none are scheduled until next year. Next step is for the Planning Commission to prioritize projects and/or parks. Magnuson stated that budget for this is his main concern, and Gischia questioned about grants. LaJoye suggested getting more involved with the IOHT, but that is not an option as Ely Township has voted against such twice. She suggested that in the future, funding may increase in the rural sector, and to look for grants focused on community, not tourism. She stated the plan will be complete in 1-2 months from her colleague.

B. Marijuana Ordinance – Motion to table was made by Carr, seconded by Kennedy. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion passed. There was public comment from Steve Hertel, 3560 Co Rd CP, in favor of tabling the Ordinance. He had presented a packet of information to the Commission for their review.

C. Solar Panel Ordinance – All members showed support for the proposed Ordinance, and Carr appreciated the need for a Conditional Use for any property that wants to add solar. This would provide a Public Hearing for each instance. VanLuven questioned if kilowatt amounts should be added to the specifications, but after discussion it was decided it was not. Gischia added that if there were any issues after the fact, they could do an amendment. Recommend to the board and have a Public Hearing at the August meeting was made in a motion by Ruppel, seconded by Kennedy. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion passed.

D. US 41 Corridor Meeting – Ruppel did not attend the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Lake Lory resident's discussion – Residents Hertel, Mark Richards, 3272 Co Rd CP, and Steve Nurmela, 6179 Co Rd CP, were all in attendance to discuss. They are concerned that traffic on their road is being directed incorrectly, the speeds are excessive, and they need a "Dead End" sign from the county. They wanted the Commission to call Marquette County on their behalf, but Magnuson gave them the names of supervisor and recommended they attend the next Road Commission Board meeting. Carr mentioned he is working with two of the County Engineers and will discuss with them as well as looking for a sign in his company's shop. The residents did say that the Sheriff's Department did assist them with removing a person who was camping illegally in the area. Richards had purchased Neighborhood Watch signs, and left them for maintenance to hang.

B. Addition to Zoning Compliance Permit – Township Assessor Sue Bovan had asked for an example drawing to be added to the permit. Stratton made one up to add to the third page of the permit, and it was approved by all. VanLuven stated it would assist him as well when reviewing applications.

C. Noise Ordinance – VanLuven asked if a change could be made by adding a time limit, and Carr suggested 7am to 10pm. Gischia voiced concern that it would be more difficult to enforce if too strict. Carr noted that the current Ordinance states city, not township, so those changes are needed. Gischia stated concern of enforcing such Ordinance, as many of the complaints would be in the evening hours. He suggested looking into paying the Sheriff's Department to issue such. Carr made a motion to recommend to the Board with the wording changes and question of enforcement, but not time limit. Kennedy seconded. Ayes- 5, Nays – 0. Motion passed.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

VanLuven reported he addressed a complaint at the Harsila Salvage Yard as to cars being brought to the north side of US41 and worked on during weekend hours. Randy Harsila stated to VanLuven that they were removing catalytic convertors only, and then bringing the vehicles back to the south side of US41. He confirmed his approval for both new Ordinances, and for the change in the Zoning Compliance Permit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm by Chairperson Magnuson.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Stratton, Recording Secretary