

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
June 14, 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 Gischia, supported by Randy Ruppel to approve the Minutes of the June 1, 2021 Planning Commission Special Meeting. Ayes - 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Stratton presented the letter that was sent to Marquette County in regards to the Re-Zoning properties from the previous meeting. She also read from a letter from Marquette County in regards to their draft of their Master Plan and it being available on their website.

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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Martin- Public Hearing was opened. There were no residents in attendance for Public Hearing. Cody Martin was present. VanLuven stated that the Findings of Fact of Parcel 52-03-210-054-00 were presented at the past meeting, and recommended to approve the Conditional Use. A motion was made by Kennedy to approve, seconded by Gischia. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

B. Lawry- There were no residents in attendance of Public Hearing. Lawry was not in attendance. VanLuven presented his Findings of Facts for parcel 52-03-208-038-40. The application for the Conditional Use was filed after discovery that one was not done when the home was built. As the Lawry's have lived there for two years, VanLuven recommended the approval. A motion was made by Gischia, and seconded by Kennedy. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A. LaJoye was not in attendance, so the update was tabled.

B. Marijuana Ordinance - Chairperson Magnuson stated the ideal location for such business was sold to a different company. Gischia questioned if there is any interest moving forward. Kennedy, Carr, and Ruppel are in favor of moving forward. VanLuven suggested reviewing the Ordinances he has on hand, then have a draft made up at this time, so then we have one ready if there is an inquiry in the future. But not get any legal assistance or put any funds toward until such time. Motion by Kennedy to have a Roll Call vote, seconded by Ruppel. Gischia – Nay, Kennedy – Aye, Ruppel – Aye, Carr – Aye, Magnuson – Aye. Motion passed.

C. Annual Report – Magnuson reported he has started the 2021 report, and Stratton stated that there is a current folder now in office of all 2021 applications for anyone's review.

D. US 41 Corridor Meeting – Ruppel attended the May meeting, and the minutes were reviewed, unable to attend the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Gold Mine Lake resident's discussion – A letter was delivered to the residents after complaints were presented to a member of the Board in regards to the boat launch, trail through park, and loose dogs in the neighborhood. The floor was opened to discussion from the residents in attendance.

1. Gene Fischer, 15 Gold Drive. He was concerned who wrote the letter. He doesn't see the need for any changes to boat launch, but is fine with changes to trail. He also hasn't had a problem with any of the dogs in the neighborhood.

2. Bob Hendrickson, 7 Gold Drive. He does not use the boat launch and does not see any reason to make changes. He is okay with changes to the trail, just questioned how much property the township owns. He has no problems with the dogs.

3. Brian Beyer, 17 Gold Drive. He thinks that the trail is fine and that the rocks are enough to deter people from driving too fast through the park. He thinks there does not need to be any changes to the boat launch.

4. Jim Janofski, 2 Gold Drive. He was not aware of the issue with the trail or the boat launch. He mentioned that the sign for County Road CU needs to be replaced.

Magnuson stated that he would donate time to replace sign, and Stratton said she would have the office manager get one ordered. Carr stated that the trail can be worked on and Supervisor Laakso would be questioned about plan. Gischia will report to the Board meeting on June 16, 2021.

B. Animal Ordinance Application Review – VanLuven expressed his approval. Ruppel made a motion to approve, seconded by Carr. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

C. Magnuson reported on how the chip and seal works, as the proposal was approved last year. The project was moved back a year, and the price for the project increased. The Board will discuss the new pricing at their next meeting.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

VanLuven stated all of his report was in the Public Hearing, in the Marijuana discussion, and in the approval for Animal Ordinance Permit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Janofski stated he is not in favor with any Marijuana Ordinance. He also asked for verification that at the previous Public Hearing about a gravel pit permit on County Road 496 was denied. VanLuven confirmed that it was, and they could file with the Zoning Board of Appeals. He stated that they have not. Janofski asked if any further action is taken, that their neighborhood be included in any public notification.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kennedy to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ruppel. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Stratton, Recording Secretary