

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
March 14, 2022 - 6:30pm
Meeting Taped and In-Person

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dustin Kennedy called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL

Randy Ruppel, Dustin Kennedy, Steven Bertucci Jr. and Aaron Carr – Present. Art Gischia - Absent.
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 was made by Ruppel to approve the minutes from the January 17th, 2022, Special Meeting as they were not available at the last meeting. Seconded by Carr. Aye - 4, Nays - 0, Absent - 1. Motion passed. Motion was made by Carr to approve the minutes from the February 14th, 2022, Special Meeting. Seconded by Bertucci. Aye - 4, Nays - 0, Absent - 1. Motion Passed.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ruppel made a motion to approve, with support from Carr. Ayes - 4, Nays - 0, Absent - 1. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ted Pepin, 2717 US 41 West, asked if there was any road repair plans for this year. Carr stated that two roads in Ely Township, CD and CKC, were on the list for bid that Lindberg received from the Marquette County Road Commission (MCRC). Jeremy Laakso, Supervisor, stated that Kurt Taavola from the MCRC, asked for our list that was compiled last fall, again. VanLuven stated that Tilden Township was asked to resend their list as well.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of the Zoning Ordinance – Carr mentioned the lack of the Demolition permit being mentioned in the Ordinance. VanLuven stated that it is not necessarily a zoning issue, that is required by the county for each Township to have one. VanLuven also stated that it does now relate to the Dangerous Buildings Ordinance, and clarification from the Board may be necessary about him signing one. VanLuven also stated that Gischia had some questions about moving definitions regarding Wind Energy Systems (WES) in the Ordinance, and suggested waiting on that information for next meeting. Kennedy tabled discussion until the April meeting.

B. Review of the Master Plan – Discussion was made on the fact that Census information has not been made available yet, so any changes to the Master Plan will need to happen after that is released. Carr mentioned that the maps do need to be updated. Kennedy asked if any quotes came from CUPPAD and Carr said no. He suggested that since we have a digital copy to make adjustments to, that we do update on our own. Kennedy tabled further discussion until the April meeting.

C. Update on US-41 corridor – Ruppel questioned the location of the mentioned Putt golf area, and VanLuven stated in the newspaper today it was cancelled.

NEW BUSINESS

A. DNR Grant Report – Carr gave a summary on his investigation into the Grants that Ely would be able to apply for and explained the point system. He stated most grants were for \$300,000, they are listed by county, and have a wide range of projects. Prior attempt at a grant for a pavilion was explained as a denial based on points. Projects that include any trail network get 50-100 extra points, so by making a trail system in the Disc Golf project may make it more available for grant money. Carr also explained that any application needs an engineer study, a resolution passed by the Board 6 months prior, and a proposed maintenance plan set in place. He also noted any small projects were all located along the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. Moving forward, the Township would be applying for grants next year, rather than this. Kennedy suggested to add Review of Recreation Plan to the next months agenda to decide which project would apply.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

VanLuven's report stated that Diorite school is out of his jurisdiction of zoning, he has not received any communication from the owner. He asked Laakso for an update. Laakso gave a synopsis of the dealings the Board and lawyers have had with the owner in the last few weeks. Also, in the report was informed that some of the properties owned by Mrs. Harsila, who owns the Junk yard on US-41, seemed to be liquidating. He mentioned that it would be possible to force a fence using the Miscellaneous Debris Ordinance. Kennedy had asked if there was any possible connection to the Highway Beautification Act. Van Luven was not sure. He also stated that the updated Zoning Ordinance does have the Solar Ordinance included.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pepin, former Supervisor, stated that the reason for the Demolition Permit was to notify the assessor to take any buildings off of the tax roll.

Laakso asked Pepin about acquiring new maps from the county. Pepin stated to make changes and note dates of rezoning on current map, and then send to the county.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Kennedy at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Stratton, Recording Secretary