

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
March 10, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Taped and In-Person

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Michael Anderson, Randy Ruppel, Julie Hosang – Present; Ken Hill – Absent
Also present Ed Young, Zoning Administrator, Danielle Burke, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Hosang to approve the agenda, with support from Anderson. Ayes –3, Nays – 0.
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Anderson to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2025 meeting.
Seconded by Hosang. Ayes - 3, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE – None.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ken Hill has missed 3 board meetings and PC is suggesting his removal from the Planning Commission Board.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

- A. Zoning Permits
 - a. Quinnell Bridge – Received EGLE permit, issued zoning permit
- B. Violations
 - a. Nothing new
- C. Complaints
 - a. Nothing new
- D. On-going

- a. Former Diorite School: Fence still up. Spoke with attorney. Fence will be removed and new wooden fence to be constructed in the spring
 - b. Carello/Beaupied: Nothing new. More investigation in the upcoming months
 - c. 444 County Rd CKK: Gave to township board. Dangerous Buildings ordinance
 - d. Slab on Brocky Lake: Wasn't permitted and still waiting on a reply. Investigation in the next months. Will speak with Attorney Zappa for recommendations on moving forward
 - e. Jerzi's: work to continue in the spring
 - f. Lazenby County Rd CJ: Nothing new. Work to continue in the spring
 - g. Twin Pines Subdivision: Two Miscellaneous Debris violations
 - i. Deroche has responded and has cleaned up the miscellaneous debris
 - ii. No response from the other party. Seems to be only two vehicles remaining and some stuff has been removed. Will follow-up when snow melts to see what's left
- E. New Developments
- a. Harsila's Junk Yard: Spoke with owner and stated that clean up would continue when property is accessible (when snow melts). The plan is to clean up the property and sell it. There has been a lot of clean up happening.

Ed Young, Zoning Administrator

OLD BUSINESS

- A. *US-41 Corridor Meeting Minutes*: Ruppel stated there wasn't much to report on. 2025 projects include: Carpool lot at Carp River in Marquette, M28 Paver Placed surface seal from Alger County line to US 41, US 41 Crush and Shape in Skandia, M35 Overlay from County line to Little Lake, and M95 Overlay from LLK to PLK
- B. *Master Plan/CUPPAD Updates*: Jessica Walter from CUPPAD was present at the meeting. Ms. Walter presented on the next steps for the Master Plan. The board members were given a rough draft of the first chapter of the master plan as well as a sample of the Citizen Survey. The board discussed the next steps regarding the Citizen Survey and ultimately decided to wait a month to launch the survey to the public. Anderson and Hosang will be stopping by some popular businesses in Ely Township to see if they would be willing to be a location for physical surveys to be picked up and dropped off. Our plan is to launch the Citizen Survey a week after the April Planning Commission meeting.

Business and popular locations for survey access would be 581 Little Store, Jerzi's, Legion, Lawry's, Ely Township Hall/Office, the Ishpeming Senior Center, and the library. The survey will also be available digitally/print on Facebook, the Ely Township Website, and The Mining Journal. We are looking for have the survey open for 3-4 weeks after launch. Ms. Walter volunteered to pick up any physical surveys weekly from businesses that have agreed to be a drop off location.

- C. *Vacant Property Plan Update:* Ms. Andrea Daar was present for the meeting. The students were just getting back from Spring Break so no students were in attendance. Ms. Daar stated that this semesters students are really excited to start on the vacant land project. She will break her students up into three groups based on the popularity of the project ideas: trail system, disc golf, and a pavilion. Each group will research the pros/cons, ecology, forestry, etc. and if a certain project would be beneficial and work for the land. Because of the snow, the township may not get a completely final copy of the project when the semester ends since the students are unable to fully access the land. Ms. Daar invited the board to attend the students' final presentations on April 22 and April 24. Some students will also be present for the April 14 Planning Commission meeting.

Ed Dobija, owner of Northwood Clearings which specializes in forestry mulching and trail clearing, is interested in the vacant property project. He gave a brief overview of his business and that he is interested in putting in a bid once the Township is at that point in the project.

- D. *Iron Ore Heritage Trail Meeting Updates:* Anderson stated that he was unable to attend this past months' meeting due to a work conflict. He did receive the minutes and briefly summarized them.

The IOHT committee is looking at an extension of the trail in Lakanenland in Chocolay Township and off of the Maple Ridge Condos off of County Road 492 in Negaunee. Board appointments were also discussed at the IOHT committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. *Short Term Rental Ordinance:* Discussed that Ely Township currently has no ordinance for short term rentals. A copy of the ordinance that Richmond Township put into place was given to the board members. Jessica Walter offered to do a dive into short term rentals and Ely Township for the Master Plan. She also stated that there is some wording in the Master Plan currently that encompasses all short term rentals, summer homes, winter/summer camps, hunting camps, any houses not lived in full-time, etc. Ms. Walter is willing to pull some ordinances from neighboring jurisdictions (Negaunee, Marquette, Munising) for next months' packet.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

BOARD COMMENTS – Julie Hosang- Wants to do a good job with current projects. She is excited to look through the Vacant Property Project binder from the NMU students

Michael Anderson-hopes the Township can get some more board members for the Planning Commission

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m. by Chair Ruppel.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Burke, Recording Secretary