

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
May 11, 2026 – 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

Randy Ruppel, Lance Miller, Kenneth Junak, Tom Tembreull – Present

Also present Danielle Burke, Recording Secretary & Ed Young, Township Supervisor/Zoning Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Miller to approve the agenda, with support from Junak. Ayes –4, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Miller to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2026 meeting. Seconded by Junak. Ayes –4, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE – None.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Zoning Permits:

- Quinnell 2 recreational leases and campground
- Jesse Wright
- Ellen Flack
- Margaret Miller
- Jacob Kleiman

Violation(s):

- Nothing new

Complaints:

- Nothing new

On-going:

- Former Diorite School: email sent to Attorney
- Carello/Beaupied: Letters sent
- Leaf cabins Debra has been in contact with Supervisor Laakso
- Jerzi's email sent
- Harsilla's clean up ongoing Tanya is working on getting grants to help
- Jared Rogers contact made, permits have been filed

- Lajoie bunk house no permits letter sent
- Ehrhardt septic and site no permits letter sent

New Developments.

- Nothing new

Training: None

Phone Calls and Emails:

- Quinnell
- Lesley Seelig inquired about requirements to install a fence and I found that our fence ordinance never made it to publishing so we still do not have an adopted fence ordinance
- Emily Arseneau; Emily called back and I spoke with her about requirements for her neighbors to have chickens and everything sounds in compliance and she understands

Ed Young, Ely Township Deputy Supervisor

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Master Plan/CUPPAD Updates:* Dotty Lajoie from CUPPAD attended. Dotty went over the next steps in the Master Plan process. She passed out “The Zoning Plan” work plan, “Zoning Language Considerations”, current zoning districts that allow recreational structures and single-family dwellings, information about the land division act, and “Land Division Act basics for landowners”. Ed had to make a correction about Recreational Structure (1 acre) zoning district cannot have a single-family dwelling and instead should be a conditional use along with Recreational Structure (min: 10 acres). She went over each handout and there was much discussion between Dotty and the PC committee about each handout. The regular PC meeting was suspended at 6:30 p.m. so the rezoning hearing for the Pearson’s property could be held. The regular planning commission meeting was back in session at 6:37 p.m. Dotty gave the PC members information about upcoming in-person trainings (Roles and Responsibilities of a Planning Commission and Defensible Planning and Zoning Decisions)
- US-41 Corridor Meeting Minutes:* Chair Ruppel passed around the US-41 Corridor minutes for commissioners to read
- Iron Ore Heritage Trail Meeting Updates:* Each Planning Commission member was given the packet from the March 25, 2026 IOHT meeting since the PC did not meet in April

NEW BUSINESS—

- Lowmoor Lake and land around Escanaba River: Proposing that the land around these two water areas be changed from Recreational to Residential due to many people living there full time. Discussion was had about emergency vehicles getting access to seasonal roads
- 40 acres of Ely Township property: ideas for use would be senior housing with a daycare or a veterans cemetery

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

BOARD COMMENTS – Tembreull is looking to get the capital plan and budget from Jeremy. He would like to sit down at a PC member and go through the budget with him. Miller stated that the culvert in Clarksburg still needs repair and we need ideas on how to make it cost effective.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Burke, Recording Secretary

DRAFT