

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
November 11, 2024 – 6:00pm
Meeting Taped and In-Person

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Michael Anderson, Randy Ruppel, John Jessen, and Ken Hill – Present. Also present Jeremy Laakso, Supervisor/Zoning Administrator, Danielle Burke, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was in order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Jessen to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Hill. Ayes - 4, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jeremy Laakso, Township Supervisor: Announced the two new board members that were elected on the Ely Township board—Julie Hosang and Andy Anderson. Julie will be appointed onto the Planning Commission board and will be at the December meeting. Andy was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals board

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

All new approved zoning permits were discussed.

- A. *Dan Moore (2)*: adding two more mobile homes to the trailer park on Wawonowin Club Road/Kona Lane
- B. *Misale Garage*: North Greenwood Lakes subdivision

Violations/Complaints:

- a. *Twin Pines Debris Complaints*: Two letters were sent to two residents who are not in compliance with the zoning ordinance (miscellaneous debris) but were returned. We resent the letters, and one resident did clean up their property and is now in compliance
- b. *Quinnell Property*: Appears to be in violation of the Ely Township Zoning ordinance. Operating a campground on County Road CH and research is going to continue. Zoning Administrator has sent the township's attorney correspondence on the property and are currently waiting to hear from attorney for next steps and advice on how to proceed with this ongoing issue—approximately three years

On-going:

- A. *Slawski/Old Diorite School*: Fence is still up. Attorney was going to attempt to contact the owner but haven't heard anything back
- B. *Carello/Beaupied*: the township attorney attended the court hearing and stated that property could not be cleaned if Carello was not available
- C. *444 CKK, Champion*: Found property owners new address and sent a letter to that address. Letter was accepted but haven't heard anything back
- D. *Brocky Lake Yurt*: Yurt wasn't permitted and sent a letter to property owners and Codes. Did hear back from property owner and is going to fill out a Zoning Compliance Permit and pay 3x the permit fees because owner did not apply for it. Will approve permit once setbacks and such are correct
- E. *Slab on Brocky Lake*: slab wasn't permitted and sent a letter to property owners and Codes
- F. *Co Rd CJ*: Owner hauled in a small storage shed and is within 1 foot from the property line. It is zoned as Residential 5 which means it needs to be at least 15 feet away from property lines. Owner never submitted a zoning application

Jeremy Laakso, Zoning Administrator

OLD BUSINESS

- A. *Master Plan/QUPPAD Updates*: Ely Township Office Manager Danielle Burke has been in contact with Ryan Carrig from QUPPAD. Mr. Carrig is looking for more details of the current efforts of the master plan. He gave us an estimate cost as well as a brief overview about how the process of updating a master plan is done and about how long it will take. Mr. Carrig offered to come to a PC meeting. PC board decided that that should be the first step into our process for the master plan. Danielle will see if Mr. Carrig can attend the December PC meeting on December 9, 2024.
- B. *40 acre Greenwood property plan/discussion* – Ken Hill introduced Ms. Andrea Daar, adjunct professor teaching Protected Area Management at Northern Michigan University as well as six students who could attend the PC meeting. Ms. Daar gave a background of

herself to the board as well as what her class has been doing to prepare for this project and had each of the students in attendance give their ideas for the property:

- a. *Sherry R.*: Part of the Environmental Focus group. Wants to look more into the invasive species that are on the property as well as the creek that runs through. Wants to see if a pond, boardwalk, etc. would work for that area
- b. *Gabbi M.*: Part of the Recreation group. Really interested to see if a disc golf course could work since it could be low cost. Also looking at hiking trails, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. Wants it to be a place where residents can enjoy by themselves or with a group
- c. *Emily H.*: Part of the Public Engagement group. Looking at bringing education to the property—history, plants, animals, etc. Wants to also engage the youth where they can learn about the property while enjoying it at the same time. Also wants to find a way to engage tourists to stop and utilize the property
- d. *Helena B.*: Part of the Public Engagement group. Wants to poll the public to see what they want for a recreation area so money isn't being spent on unwanted activities. Helena wants to zone the area so the activities that would be on the property, would fit well together and wants to make it accessible for everyone
- e. *Ms. Daar*: Summed up how the class is broken into three groups: Recreation, Public Engagement, and Environmental Focus. By the end of the semester, the class will give Ely Township, a bare minimum of at least, feasibility, priority, and all ideas that the class has come up with. Last day of class is December 11 and would love to have a couple of class representatives/students come to the new PC meeting on December 9 to give the PC board a final wrap up of ideas. The students in her class will be giving presentations (in their focus groups) on their ideas and findings on Tuesday and Thursday (December 3 and 5). Invited the board to attend the students' presentations, if available.
- f. *Alex M.*: Part of the Public Engagement group. Asked board if the students have permission to go to local businesses to leave a survey or QR code for residents

NEW BUSINESS

- A. *Barnes Hecker Memorial upgrade*: Supervisor Laakso explained to the board of his idea to make sure that the Barnes Hecker miners and their sacrifices are not forgotten. Has ideas about adding a parking area, a walking path, etc. Ely Township would maintain the property—cutting the grass, make sure it's kept up, empty garbage. He wants people to come and visit the memorial. Currently, the memorial is on private property. Secretary Hill stated that he would draft a letter to the property owners to start the discussion between Ely Township and the property owners. Discussed logistics with the use of the property and the property owners—cost, up keep, insurance. Mentioned that Ely Township does do this with another park on Cardinal St. Supervisor Laakso will find letter from the Cardinal Street agreement. Board agreed that the conversation is worth having.
- B. *2025 Project List from Marquette County Road Commission*

Supervisor Laakso to will get prices from county for the following. He has sent an email a while back. Chair Ruppel will bring these projects up at the quarter meeting he is attending on November 12.

- a. Co Rd CD, Mail Route Road, Southerly half from CH/Lawer to 581
- b. Co Rd CKL, currently not paved but graded
- c. Southwood Lane

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

BOARD COMMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Ruppel.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Burke, Recording Secretary