

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
October 14, 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, Alan Harris, Randy Ruppel, John Jessen, and Ken Hill – Present. Also present Jeremy Laakso, Supervisor/Zoning Administrator, Dawn Schuhknecht, Township Treasurer, Danielle Burke, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was in order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Harris to approve the agenda, with support from Anderson. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Anderson to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Harris. Ayes - 3, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was read from Danielle Burke in regards to Chocolay Township being in the process of updating the 2025-2029 Recreation and Natural Resources Conservation Plan. The plan can be found on the Chocolay Township website.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

All new approved zoning permits were discussed.

- A. *Wooden Property on 581*: Property owners have two 40 acre plots that they combined but were zone differently. One is zoned as Timber Production (cannot be built on) and one is zoned Resource Production (can be built on under conditional use). Jeremy

contacted Brad Neumann from MSU Extension and it is split zoned but that is normal to be split zoned. As long as the home is being built on the entire parcel that is zoned Resource Production, under conditional use, the owners can build. There will be a public hearing on November 11, during the Planning Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. Jeremy has gotten a couple of neighbors in support of the build.

- B. *Jarvis on Lowmoor Lake*: wants to build a deck off a house but the deck would be too close to the property lines. However, Jarvis does own the property next to it. Jeremy told property owner (Jarvis) to talk to our assessor to get the two properties combined and his setback would be plenty. Let the property owner know to come to the Township and fill out a zoning application so plans can be discussed before building would begin. If properties are combined, he will have plenty of room away from property lines to complete his deck.
- C. *Miscellaneous*: a few accessory structures and a Habitat for Humanity home and out building in Twin Pines

Violations/Complaints:

- A. *Miscellaneous Debris Complaints*: Three complaints—all in Twin Pines. Jeremy will be following up on 10/23/2024. Will give 30 days and evaluate from there

On-going:

- A. *Slawski/Old Diorite School*: Jeremy spoke with attorney and will contact owner. Owner is in contempt of court due to not having fence down and not having cleaned the place up. Unsure of where this will go. Hill asked if this could eventually become a county abatement issue--it could, if taxes are not paid on the property.
- B. *444 CKK, Champion*: Jeremy attempted to get address from county with no luck. Attorney will look into it. Dawn Schuhknecht has contacted CoreLogic to see what bank has taken it over. CoreLogic gave a case number and we will go from there.
- C. *Sand/Gravel Operations*: Had township resident reach out to Jeremy about buying a huge chunk of property/several different parcels of property in the township. Jeremy will forward Danielle Burke for her to forward to PC board members regarding proper sand/gravel operations at a township level

Jeremy Laakso, Zoning Administrator

OLD BUSINESS

- A. The US-41 Corridor Meeting Minutes were not received.
- B. *Master Plan Discussion* – Harris brought it to the board after the last meeting last month—only three of them. If Ely Township wants to go to CUPPAD, needs to find out what the cost will be for CUPPAD to help with it. Under the impression that originally they recommended going that route and past members wanted to keep it “here”. Suggest contacting CUPPAD and see where we go from there. Dawn Schuhknecht stated that since

we are members, we do get money off CUPPAD. Jeremy believe that the cost would be somewhere around \$3,000. Dawn and Danielle will contact Dottie Lajoie about a quote.

- C. *40 Acre Greenwood Property Plan/Discussion* - Previous member, Cheryl Grove, had drafted a letter to send to Scott Jordan of NMU Outdoor Recreation Program asking for assistance and opinions on property. Mr. Jordan has responded to the letter by thanking us for thinking of them and it's something that they could do for a winter semester project—if not too late. We will respond back inquiring about how it will fit into their schedule and any information that we can get them or any information we can provide to them. John Jessen also suggested Kurt Corcoran from NICE Community Schools to help with the project as well. He has been an active part in creating a disc golf course, walking and mountain bike trails in the district. Jessen will contact Kurt and see if he would be willing to assist with any projects for this property.
- D. *Secretary Reappointment*: Ken Hill volunteered to become the Planning Commission Secretary. Motion made by Jessen to approve Ken Hill to be appointed as secretary of the Planning Commission. Seconded by Harris. Ayes - 4, Nays - 0. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. *Enlarging Diorite Park*: Board had questions regarding whether this was to enlarge the Diorite Park or to upgrade the Diorite Park equipment. There was a discussion about how to get money—grants, fundraising? Anderson said that there is a recreational passport grant available—would need matching funds. This will be discussed when updating the Parks and Rec Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

BOARD COMMENTS

Ken Hill thanked the board for accepting him onto the Planning Commission

Al Harris thanked the new board members for joining

Michael Anderson welcomed the new board members and Danielle Burke to the meeting

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm by Chair Ruppel.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Burke, Recording Secretary