

Keweenaw County Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting  
*Meeting Minutes*  
March 28, 2024

Keweenaw County Courthouse 4:00 PM

Roll Call:	John Parsons	Present	Steve Siira	Present
	Barry Koljonen	Absent	Harvey Desnick	Present
	Daniel Yoder	Absent	AJ Kern	Present
	Jim Vivian, Commissioner	Absent	Bob Pokorski	Present
	Sara Heikkila, Zoning Administrator	Present		

5 Member quorum is present, meeting was appropriately posted.  
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approve Agenda with meeting date updated to March 28, 2024.  
Motion (M) to approve Bob / Second (S) Steve

Approve minutes of the regular meeting on February 26, 2024.  
M to approve Bob / S Steve

Guests: \*See Sign in sheet\*

Public Comment:

*THIS IS THE TIME SET ASIDE ON THE AGENDA TO RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC. THIS IS NOT INTENDED TO BE A PERIOD FOR DIALOGUE. EACH PERSON WHO WISHES TO SPEAK DURING PUBLIC COMMENT SHALL STATE THEIR NAME AND ADDRESS. COMMENTS SHALL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES OR LESS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSIONERS.*

Doug McColl – comments on 2022 minutes on website. Is the commission aligned on the redlines of proposed amendments?

**New Business**

1. Harvey Desnick – Short term rental evaluation/presentation.  
Keweenaw County housing shortage and short term rentals.

**Unfinished Business**

1. MSU Extension STR Policy Options for Michigan Communities  
Special Meeting Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 - 8:00PM at the Courthouse, meeting was posted on the website appropriately.

STR policy deliberation following the Special Meeting.

Bob motions to limit deliberations to 1 hour / S Harvey

2. Master Plan Update  
Sara Heikkila Ahmeek  
John and Dan Yoder Allouez  
Barry Grant  
Bob Sherman

Completed workshop meeting on October 26.

Mark Aho emailed John – updates on Allouez Township projects and potential projects.

Bob contacted Pat Coleman – needs a RFP. Sara to forward Beckett & Raeder contact to Bob for RFB.

3. Zoning ordinance text amendments.  
Excel file summary and PDF file with changes tracked provided to Commissioners.  
Public Hearing for amendments on Monday May 6 at 4pm.

AJ – need to add Yurts and RV changes.

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Doug McColl – Doesn't think properties on a lake should be able to be STRs. There is too much guest turnover with STRs.

Robert Salata – House in Mohawk being sold as an STR business. Now taxes have gone way up due to selling as a business.

Betsy McColl – STRs are businesses.

John Kern – The master plan should be referenced and Planning Commission needs to initiate healthy growth.

Balanced approach to healthy growth. Read a letter. Suggests getting some revenue on the zoning permits.

Final Comments:

AJ reviews her summary regarding STRs.

Harvey discussed how a HOA could resolve complaints vs getting the county to regulate STRs.

AJ reiterates stick to Keweenaw County goals in Master Plan.

Next Regular Meeting April 29, 4:00 PM

M to Adjourn Bob / S AJ

Dan Yoder arrived at 6:15pm

6:30 – 8pm: MSU Extension Webinar STR

8:00pm – start deliberation session.

AJ distributed a hand out with proposed changes.

Discussion regarding townships vs county regulatory powers.

Motion by John to hold a special meeting on April 4 @5pm / S Dan

M to adjourn John / S Harvey