

Keweenaw County Planning Commission

Regular Meeting

Minutes – July 29, 2014

Meeting held at Keweenaw County Courthouse was called to order at 6:00 PM

Roll Call: Jon Soper, Chairman Jim Huovinen, Member
 Tom Hall, Member Ray Chase, Commissioner
 Ned Huwatschek, Member Richard Schaefer, Member
 Steve Siira, Member

Excused: John Parsons, Member – Ann Gasperish, Zoning Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by all.

Agenda: Under New Business add the following:

- *Janet Shea, Grant Township – Illegal off-premise signs in Keweenaw County*
- *Jan Cole, Houghton Township – Letter from Zoning Office regarding replacement of a deck*

M/S Chase/Huwatschek to approve the agenda as amended. Passed.

Meeting Minutes: June 24, 2014:

M/S Huovinen/Siira to approve as presented. Passed.

Guests: Janet Shea, Jan Cole, Bill Eddy, Kathy McEvers

Public Comment:

- Janet Shea: Concerned that KC Zoning Ordinance is not being actively enforced and no official action has been taken in over a year since the complaint was registered with the Zoning Office regarding off-premise signs. Initial complaint listed two signs in apparent violation, which were erected subsequent to 2006 and would not be “grandfathered” under the previous zoning. Lack of action by the Planning Commission may set a

precedent circumventing the KC Land Use Plan. Planning Commission assured Shea KC Zoning Ordinances shall be enforced. Follow up with Zoning Administrator. August agenda item.

- Jan Cole: Presented old photos of porch/deck on property. Deck was replaced on original footprint. PC found no permit was required for deck reconstruction. Issue resolved.
- Kathy McEvers: Concerned about parking in Resort-Residential areas operating B & B's and Tourist Homes in Eagle River. Existing parking spaces are inadequate to accommodate parking for those establishments. PC will review zoning requirements regarding parking. Future agenda item.

New Business:

- Zoning listing cell towers as a "utility" was reviewed. PC concurred cell towers should not be listed as an "essential service" in KC Zoning.

Unfinished Business:

- Fall zone requirement for cell towers discussed. Additional information regarding fall zone requirements will be reviewed at a later date.
- Email from Nathan Haupt regarding support for the proposed wireless services facility located in Grant Township was reviewed. No action taken to send a statement of support to the Federal Communications Commission.
- Variance for Special Use Permits discussed. Variance aspect should be incorporated in the Special Use Permit application/Site Plan.

M/S Soper/Huwatschek for a Special Use Permit to be granted any dimensional variances from the Zoning Ordinance or requirements must be included in the Special Use Permit Application Site Plan and approved by the Planning Commission. Passed without objection.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Report attached to agenda.

Public Comment:

- Kathy McEvers inquired if additions or changes to the Zoning Ordinance are available in print copy. PC will approve reprinting when all changes are approved.
- Janet Shea: Advised to contact KC Zoning or Equalization Dpt. about purchasing a KC Plat Map.

Commission – Final Comments:

- Schaefer: Recommended off-premise sign ordinance enforcement be placed on agenda as a standing item and that a review of all off-premise signs in KC be on-going.

Next Meeting: August 26, 2014 at 6:00 PM

Hall moved for adjournment at 7:45 PM

Minutes Recorded by:

Darleen M. Huovinen