

Keweenaw County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
August 31, 2021

John called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM

Roll Call:	John Parsons	Steve Siira
	Barry Koljonen	Dan Steck via zoom
	Jim LaMotte, absent	Sara Heikkila
	Nancy DeForge via zoom	
	Jim Vivian, Unavailable	Ann Gasperich, Administrator

A quorum is present, and the meeting was appropriately posted.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

M/S Koljonen/Siira to approve the agenda after taking off the three lines regarding the public hearing.

M/S Siira/Heikkila to approve minutes of the regular meeting on June 29, 2021.

Guests – Members of the ZBA – Mark Ahlborn, Frank Kastelic, Leslie DuTemple, Dan Yoder, and Harvey Desnick.

Communications: none

New Business

John initiated the discussion of the List of areas of concern (AOC) from the zoning ordinance, not in any order. He also will draft a letter to the Board of Commissioners asking them to relay the complaints that have received to the Planning Commission for review. There were many ideas shared by the members and guests. The ideas include:

- Include quick links from table of contents and any table that reference another section
- Very first item should be the zoning map
- Must articles be in the same order?
- Could article 1 & 2 be moved further back?
- Include table 4-2 on page 4-20 & 4-21 in discussion at meeting with County and Township elected officials. (PC members learned a lot from this discussion tonight) Review Accessory uses and structures on page 4-20 & 4-21. Heavy discussion from both the Planning Commission as well as the ZBA about the list: a doghouse vs a dog shelter or 3, 5 or 12 dogs? A bus shelter vs bus Terminal? Are we talking about the shed at the end of the driveway or where the transit bus stops? Playground equipment? The backyard swing or the Township tot park?
- Consolidate some and add other districts for walkable communities, small retail, professional businesses.
- Review the one dwelling on a lot over X acres vs Echo
- The number of dogs allowed on a parcel by acreage
- How to handle structures that aren't habitable? Is it a zoning issue or a construction codes issue?
- Reminder – junk cars and blight are the responsibility of the Township.
- Review the parking requirement – Harvey – Milwaukee had a minimum and maximum for business to cut back on the amount of blacktopping that needs to be done.
- Why is the house necessary to build prior to the garage? – if well and septic are available...
- Shipping Containers – currently there must be a principle dwelling on the lot before a container can be brought in? paint so they are uniform?

Changes to the office of Zoning Administrator have been made by the County Board of Commissioners, as such, Ann will submit her letter of resignation tomorrow, September 1, 2021.

John asked if a letter to the Board of Commissioners would be appropriate to ask what their concerns and complaints they have received are.

Motion/Second by Koljonen/Heikkila to draw up a letter, passed.

Unfinished Business

Stakeholder Session September 9, 2021, 9:30 AM Slims Café – Please bring your friends!

Zoning Post Card Status is on hold for a while due to time constraints

Report from the ZBA –Steve had no report, as there were no meetings since the last meeting.

The Zoning Administrator's Report Ann presented the current Administrative 10% waivers one for Tarvis on Remillard Lane and one for Baroni on Washington Mine Road. Tarvis will be ready on the 17th of September and Baroni on the 25th.

Final ZBA Comments – Frank Kastelic - It is important to enforce what is in the ordinance. If the item isn't being enforced, it should be removed from the items requiring a permit. Many things have changed over the 17 years I participated. A Variance for a Horse in R-1 is just out and out wrong. If you're not going to abide by the book, toss it out. Easing up or limiting the ordinance only lowers property values.

Dan Yoder – how is the database for tracking violations letters and types of issues? Is the system able to? Ann yes, it's a very robust program that can track, document and timeline reminders.

Commission Final Comments – can we place a notice on the website, annually? Yes, if something is created it can be posted.

Next Meeting September 28, 4:00 PM

Motion to adjourn by Siira at 5:20.