

Keweenaw County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
Finalized Meeting Notes
September 25, 2023

Keweenaw County Courthouse 4:00 PM

Roll Call:	John Parsons	Present	Steve Siira	Present
	Barry Koljonen	Present	Dan Steck	Absent
	Daniel Yoder	Present	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 the following amendments:

Defining a dwelling unit and pending application for a garage with a bathroom but no kitchen.

Reduced setbacks for Bete Grise small lots – permit was approved in 7/2021.

Add back in final comment for commissioners.

Eagle Harbor STR Amendments.

Motion (M) to approve as amended AJ Kern / Second (S) Dan Yoder

Approve minutes of the regular meeting on August 28, 2023.

Change draft agenda to minutes.

Gina Nicholas requested to be on the recreation plan.

M to approve as amended Bob Pokorski / S Steve Siira

Guests: Harvey Desnick, Doug Dawson, Eagle River

Lindsey Ringuette, EGLE Soil Erosion program,

Doug and Betsy McColl Bete Grise residents, Tyler Hyrkas from Ron Hyrkas Construction

Kathy McEvers

Public Comment Communications:

Walk-ins and phone calls regarding STRs.

John asked commissioners to review the EHT STR amendments.

Public Comment:

Harvey Desnick commented on STR regulation. Mentions there isn't enough infrastructure to be able to regulate and enforce compliance. Thinks there should be a separate ordinance for STRs outside of the Zoning Ordinance.

Doug Dawson commented resort uses shouldn't be allowed in residential districts. Concerned about general safety issues regarding STRs, fires, noise, and sanitary issues. Existing rules don't mean anything without enforcement.

Betsy McColl, agrees with Doug Dawson. Part of a land pool, 28 property owners. Concerned about risks associated with behavior of renters, beach is getting trashed.

New Business

Public Hearing Procedure Discussion <AJ Kern>

Amendment public hearing process. AJ suggests each line item be covered individually. How does the PC come to approve the recommendations. Double check the zoning enabling act.

Audio Recordings of Meetings <AJ Kern>

Should be decided by the Planning Commission. Sara (PC secretary) indicated that the recording system doesn't allow for easy access to the recording and causes additional work for the secretary and recommends not using the recording system.

Zoning Administrator Workload <Sara Heikkila>

Part time code enforcer. Need to come up with a solution.
PC will get on the October Board meeting agenda.

The True Definition of the Soil Erosion Control Officer <Steve Siira>

Steve to schedule meeting with Sara regarding his role.

Administrative Waivers <Sara Heikkila>

The Zoning Administrator is allowed to grant administrative waivers for reducing setbacks by 10%.

Defining a dwelling unit and pending application for a garage with a bathroom but no kitchen.

<Sara Heikkila>

PC agreed the room doesn't qualify as a dwelling unit.

Reduced setbacks for Bete Grise small lots – permit was approved in 7/2021. <Sara Heikkila>

Those were intended for docks not structures. Take it to the ZBA.

Eagle Harbor STR Amendments <John Parsons>

Unfinished Business

Master Plan Update

➔ How are things progressing?

Sara Heikkila Ahmeek

John and Dan Yoder Allouez

Dan presented work plan.

Hold a special meeting / work session on Thursday 10/26 @ 4pm

Dan Steck Houghton

Barry Grant

Bob Sherman

Public Comment:

Doug Dawson expectations for managing renter behavior. Suggested a committee be formed from residents to develop a manual/rules.

Harvey Desnick mentions the EHT amendment regarding the friendly neighbor manual. Mentions townships should bring back the constable role to enforce ordinances.

Kathy McEvers thinks PC has a responsibility to regulate STRs.

Would like to review the proposed amendments.

Final Comments:

AJ Kern suggests requiring a list of rules to post in STRs.

Septic replacement doesn't have a hard and fast rule.

Next Regular Meeting October 30, 4:00 PM

M to Adjourn Bob Pokorski / S Steve Siira