

Keweenaw County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
Minutes
January 26, 2026 at 4:00

Roll call:

John Parsons, Chair/present	Steven Siira/excused
Bob Pokorski, Vice Chair/present	Harvey Desnick, ZBA Liaison/present
Don Simila, Secretary/present	Bob DeMarois, ex officio BOC/excused
Margaret Kirby/present	Susan Hockings, ZA/present

Called to order by Chair Parsons at 4:00PM

Quorum Present: Yes, 5 members Meeting Posted: Yes

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited

Approve Agenda

- M/ Pokorski S/ Kirby Motion carried

Approve December 15, 2025 minutes

- M/ Simila S/ Pokorski Motion carried

Election of Planning Commission Officers:

Motion by Pokorski to nominate **Simila as Chair**. Second by Kirby. Simila accepted
Motion carried.

Motion by Kirby to nominate **Pokorski as Vice Chair**. Second by Parsons. Pokorski accepted
Motion carried.

Motion by Pokorski to nominate **Kirby as Secretary**. Second by Parsons. Kirby accepted
Motion carried.

Newly elected Chair, Don Simila, conducted the rest of the meeting.

Code of Conduct signed by all members present.

A schedule for 2026 meetings was discussed and motion to approve the schedule as follows.

The last Monday of each month at 4:00pm with the following exceptions:

Tuesday May 26, 2026, November 2026 no meeting, December 14, 2026.

M/Pokorski S/Desnick Motion carried.

Public Comment: none

BOC Report: DeMarois (no report, excused absence)

ZA Report: Hockings

A zoning text amendment application is still under review by Keweenaw County attorneys. Awaiting their reply prior to scheduling a public hearing. Two zoning applications since last report. One is for creation of a small ice cream/sandwich shop in Grant Township, and the other is for commercial rental cabins to be located just north of Mohawk in Allouez Township. Both projects meet zoning use standards, but the cabin proposal will involve a major site plan review in the spring. ZA working on an SOP (standard operating procedures) manual for use in the zoning department and as training for members of the Planning Commission and ZBA. Also reported on ZA Memorandum concerning right of ways in Keweenaw County in response to two complaints filed about signs in the ROW. The memorandum has been sent out for county attorney review.

ZBA Report: Desnick

ZBA meeting scheduled for February 2, 2026 at 1:00 to complete findings of fact re: Eagle Inns, Inc.

New Business: none

Old Business:

- Master Plan: Pokorski
Fourth quarter 2025 report approved by BOC.
Proposal to meet twice monthly for draft chapters review; scheduled Master Plan work sessions for Feb 17th, March 16th, and April 13th at 4:00pm. Reported the final document timeline as August/September for formal approval by the Planning Commission and then schedule a public hearing after the 63 day waiting period.
- Bylaws Subcommittee: Simila
Members had reviewed the last bylaws draft and after discussion, suggested changes to the training portion. ZA will make those changes to the draft and forward to the county attorney for review.
- Short-Term Rental (STR) Subcommittee: Kirby and Parsons
Discussion about appropriate scope of county vs township ordinances. Clarification given by the ZA on enforcement protocols and permitting. There was an agreement to gather relevant STR statistics in Keweenaw County, and the next in-depth discussion on short term rentals will be at the February 23rd regular meeting. ZA will send out relevant current KCZO sections and suggestions on possible modifications for the Planning Commission to consider.

Public Comments: none

Final Comments:

Many thanks to John Parsons for his leadership as Chair of the Planning Commission, and to Don Simila for his willingness to accept the position of Chairman going forward.

Next special meeting set for February 17, 2026 at 4:00PM

Next regular meeting set for February 23, 2026 at 4:00PM

Motion to adjourn at 5:00PM

M/ Pokorski S/ Kirby Motion carried

Recording Secretary: Susan M Hockings_____

Planning Commission Secretary: Don Simila_____