

Gerrish Township Planning Commission

Regular Meeting December 7, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Acting Chair Mary Link.

Members present: Case, Boyle, Link, Purtell, Wansa, Shaltz, and Briggs

Also present: one resident.

Motion by Case, seconded by Wansa, to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2017, Public Hearing concerning amendments to the Gerrish Township Ordinance. Motion carried.

Motion by Purtell, seconded by Case, to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2017, Regular Meeting. Motion carried.

No Agenda changes.

Members acknowledged with regret the resignation of Robert Hoffman from the Planning Commission effective November 30, 2017. He was an asset to the Planning Commission for many years.

The Township Board has appointed two new members to the Planning Commission. Mike Shaltz and Mike Briggs were both in attendance.

Motion by Shaltz, seconded by Wansa, to appoint Case as Chairperson. Motion carried.

Motion by Purtell, seconded by Shaltz, to appoint Wansa as Vice-Chairperson.

The Township Board had scheduled a Special Meeting on Friday, November 17, 2017, 6:00 p.m. to receive comments regarding the Medical Marijuana options for the Townships. Current feeling is that nothing should be done now. The Planning Commission could be involved in the future depending on which, if any, of the five (5) licenses the Board authorizes.

The Planning Commission will begin the required review of the Zoning Ordinances. The Planning Commission will use input from the Building Administrator, Jansen, based on residents' requests for services and where there appears to be conflicts with those requests and the current zoning. The Planning Commission would also like Mark Eidelson to be contacted to inform us of current changes in laws and/or court cases that would affect our Ordinance naming only the topics. We would use these as a starting point of reviewing and proposing possible changes to our Zoning Ordinance.

Alternate options for septic systems need to be presented to the Island residents. It is strongly recommended that the Board invite Marty DeRocco to a work session to familiarize themselves with

these options before planning the meeting with Island residents. Link has the necessary contact information. Several Planning Commission members indicated they would be willing to attend such a meeting to help in answering questions. It was stressed, however, that the meeting would be organized by the Board and not the Planning Commission as it is not a zoning issue.

The Zoning Ordinance review will begin with a review of the Master Plan. Briggs volunteered to be the coordinator of this segment of our work.

A request was made of Link as to an update on the status of a Township Septic Ordinance. She indicated no action has been taken by the Board at this time.

Discussion followed regarding the Point of Sale Septic Resolution recently passed by the Roscommon County Commissioners pertaining to Isabella County.

The members request that the Building Administrator, Jansen, present a report each month as to new construction, variances requested and/or needed, demolitions and any other building activities in the Township of which the Planning Commission should be aware so that they stay current on the direction the Township is taking.

An inquiry was made if there are any conditions that would give the Building Administrator authority to issue permits even if non-compliance items were present. Further research on this topic is needed.

A report on a hot water boat washing facility at the South State Park was discussed. The proposed system would be hot water, 104 degrees, and all boats would be required to go through the wash both ingress and egress. The system is hoped to be operational by 2019.

Motion by Wansa, seconded by Shaltz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Motion carried.

Norma Lee Boyle, Secretary