

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES JUNE 21,2021 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE 17 participants

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairperson Dean VanLoon. Mr. VanLoon opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance along with the participants.

Verbal Roll Call: Theresa Chenier, Escanaba Township. Renee Richer, Escanaba Township. Theresa Norton, Escanaba Township. Greg Faust, Escanaba Township. Norman Fleury, Escanaba Township. Dean VanLoon, Escanaba Township.

Motion to approve the June 7, 2021 meeting minutes with two spelling corrections made by ReneeR Second by GregF. Verbal vote: TheresaN YES. TheresaC YES. ReneeR YES. NormF YES. GregF YES. DeanV YES. Motion passed.

Public Participation addressing the agenda: NONE

Motion to approve Agenda as presented made by NormF. Second TheresaN. Verbal vote: TheresaN YES TheresaC YES. ReneeR YES. NormF YES. GregF YES. DeanV YES. Motion passed.

No Zoning Administrators Report.

No Public Hearings.

Guest Speaker, Dotty LaJoie, CUPPAD shared maps depicting Land Cover Classifications, Satellite view of township and current township zoning map. These are all tools to assist with decision making on the Future Land Use Map. The commission will be reviewing, discussing and looking for public participation regarding what the Future Land Use Map should contain. What is best for the future of the township. Identify areas that may be changing in the future. She recommends addition of home operated businesses. Dotty will send the maps to the members to use for comparisons to make changes and adjustments. She has offered to attend the in person, July 6, 2021 "Tuesday" Planning Commission meeting at the Flat Rock Townhall 7:30 pm, with the large maps for viewing and demonstration to provide tools to educate and assist with making informed and researched decisions.

Dean summarized the process as needing to key in on what our future is. Look into all areas of the township. Agriculture areas staying AG or change, develop a residential area supporting the larger cities of Gladstone and Escanaba as they develop. Or does the township become industrial.

TheresaN inquired about public participation in the process. Dotty said The Planning Enabling Act requires a reach out to all within 42 days, then a Public Hearing is posted then held, once we are comfortable with the plan. Discussion of holding an "Open House" type gathering with the township residents to showcase and explain the maps, was suggested. The idea was well received by all members.

Guest Speaker, Sarah Mills, Uof M , offered to provide mapping #s of average household consumption to Escanaba Township's size. Also, she is obtaining information on how much power solar generates per acreage. She will provide them at a future meeting.

Dean gave a thought to consider. What would it take for Escanaba Township Residents to receive the benefit of ****reduced electricity**) considering what consumption needs would be in our township. Should we set land aside in Future Land Use Map. *****He will receive information form** (sp/from) Sarah Mills documenting residential power consumption and what it would take in solar production to supply a township our size.

****CORRECTION MADE:** REMOVE reduced electricity ADD: considering what consumption needs would be in our township. Should we set land aside in Future Land Use Map?

NormF concurred that the solar produced in our township does not benefit our area. A Mass solar farm is not a benefit to the home owner. There is a lot of vacant non- productive farmland that have leases still waiting.

Dean said pertaining to the solar ordinance, we need to be sure to consider all types of solar. Individual solar, community solar and industrial solar and plan for what could change each year.

Renee offered to give a presentation on individual solar as an individual panel owner herself. 7 kilo watt system.

TheresaN informed that the Township has nothing to do with any leases. That is a private agreement.

Renee asked if we are going to make an agenda item to discuss the draft Solar Ordinance.

Dean said after the Future Land Use Map is complete, then they will work on the draft Solar Ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT; NONE

TheresaC gave Board Liaison Report: Ray Hughes, longtime member has resigned. His position is a 1 year term expiring Dec 4, 2021. Locks are being changed on office door. Kim and Al will review the LaBumbard blight case. Shrubs are being removed from area around the hall . They are causing foundation problems. Fire Dept is implementing a bill change. Website has updates. Posting publications requirements. Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. The Board is looking for public comments and ideas how to use those funds. Amounts of cemetery fees. Conflict of Interest Policy. Theresa thanked the Board for continuing to invest in the education provided through MTA Premium Package. Mileage policy was discussed.

Dean thanked everyone for a good meeting. He thanked Richelle Winkler, Sarah Mills and Dotty LaJoie for attending the meeting tonight.

Motion to adjourn was made by NormF. Second TheresaC. Verbal vote to adjourn at 9:17 pm:

TheresaN YES. TheresaC YES. ReneeR YES. NormF YES. GregF YES. DeanV YES. Motion passed.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AT THE FLAT ROCK TOWNHALL 4618 COUNTY 416 20TH RD GLADSTONE MI 49837

TUESDAY JULY 6, 2021 AT 7:30 PM.

Please contact Cathy Culliton at cathyculliton@gmail.com or 906-280-6182 if you would like any assistance to attend this meeting.

Minutes approved July 6,2021 with corrections noted.

