

**ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MAY 3, 2021  
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE**

24 Participants

A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED BY TOWNSHIP SUPERVIR, TOM RYMKOS, UNTIL AUGUST 31, 2021 AT 11:59 PM DUE TO THE CONTINUED COVID-19 CASES IN THE AREA OF DELTA COUNTY. COINCIDING WITH GOVENOR WHITMER'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-115 RESTRICTINS ON GATHERINGS

*cmc 7:41*

Meeting called to order at ~~9:41~~ pm by Chairperson, Dean VanLoon. Mr. VanLoon led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Verbal Roll call: Theresa Chenier, Escanaba Township. Theresa Norton, Escanaba Township. Ray Hughes, Escanaba Township. Renee Richer, Escanaba Township. Norman Fleury, Escanaba Township. Greg Faust, Midland, MI (Pre-approval by Chairperson) Dean VanLoon, Escanaba Township. All members present.

Motion to approve April 5, 2021 minutes as presented was made by Hughes. Second Chenier

**Verbal Vote: Chenier YES Norton YES Hughes YES Richer YES Fleury YES Faust YES VanLoon YES. Motion passed to approve April 5, 2021 minutes.**

Motion to approve Agenda as presented made by Norton. Second by Richer.

**Verbal Vote: Chenier YES Norton YES Hughes YES Richer YES Fleury YES Faust YES VanLoon YES. Motion passed to approve Agenda.**

**Zoning Administrators Report:** Al Gareau said there are 2 permits at the hall for review. 1 is for a new home. The Labumbard blight issue will now require a lawyer. He will discuss further with Supervisor T. Rymkos and a local attorney.

No Public Hearings scheduled or heard.

OLD BUSINESS: The following Mission Statement was presented and discussed.

**IT IS THE MISSION OF THE ESCANABA PLANNING COMMISSION TO ACHIEVE A TOWNSHIP OF EXCELLENCE FOR IT'S RESIDENTS WHILE PROTECTING LANDS WITHIN IT'S BORDERS**

**WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY:**

**SAFETY OF RESIDENTS**

**CONSISTENCY**

**USING EVIDENCE BASED KNOWLEDGE**

**PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE**

T.Norton would like to see included: Achieve by Community Involvement.

Dean said that will be added and the Mission Statement will presented at the June 7, 2021 meeting for acceptance to be voted on at that time.

Brandan Langenfeld not available at this time. Tabled.

Renee brought attention to a chat on the Zoom from Fred Minor. Dean at this time was not aware of any complaint. There is a fence neighboring his property that when the gate opens it enters onto his property. Dean acknowledged he will be looking into this.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**Review of the Escanaba Township Master Plan was conducted** and the following was discussed: Dean said we should be reviewing on an annual basis to look at any upcoming issue especially regarding solar. He asked members if they had a chance to look the Master Plan over. There is historical information, strengths, weakness, opportunity information of issues when this plan was compiled. It is a road map of things we want look at that is in the township existing, what has been happening in the past and what do we see coming in the future that needs to be addressed. Richer asked for a future land use map which is normally associated with the Master Plan. Is there a copy? Chenier addressed: Cuppad put this master plan together and did not include a future land use map. That is a requirement by the MTE. They were made aware that they owe us one. T.Chenier is continuing contact with Cuppad to receive the future land use map. Questions arose to whether it is required to have a Capital Improvement Plan from the Planning Commission since we do not have sewer or city water. R.Richer noted that the Master Plan describes 416 20<sup>th</sup> Road with a number of small scale commercial operations. N.Fleury said they are covered as home based businesses. R.Hughes pointed out the school has garages that have businesses in them. Only the first 250 feet is R3 and behind the school is AG.. Al Gareau said Mr. Barron has been trying to have this changed but was previously refused. There was an open meeting scheduled but the pandemic caused delays. R.Richer read that R3 definition is single and two family dwellings. Dean said he will address this issue with T.Rymkos and A.Gareau.

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New Business item C) Look over draft solar ordinance provided by Township Attorney was tabled until next meeting. Dean gave the reasoning he wants to make sure the Mission Statement goals are included in consideration of the solar ordinance. He would like an outline of issues to consider. Some may require more discussion and what to consider with the mapping and information we can gain from the maps.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Brandan Langenfeld: He would like to have a mobile home on property for 3- 5 years while he constructs his home which is currently zoned R1. Dean informed Mr. Langenfeld he needs to put request in writing to Zoning Administer for a change in zoning. It will be reviewed by the Planning Commission. Notice will be sent to neighboring property owners within 300 feet for notification of request and public comment response. Then depending on outcome could go to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Al Gareau, Zoning Administrator voiced concern if permission is given for a mobile home to R1 district it could set precedence for others, such as the Bluff area. The cost for the hearing would be \$150. Norm F offered the suggestion of temporarily placing a mobile home in the nearby area that already permits mobiles so he would be closer to his property.

MEMBER COMMENTS: T. Chenier reminded Escanaba Township Residents they can pick up a trash voucher at the Township Office on Wednesdays between 9 am – 5 pm or call for other arrangements.

Members were then asked to consider what is a convenient time to access the office to retrieve mail, etc.. Kim is willing to make office hours fit to others schedules.

BOARD LIASON REPORT: T. Chenier reminded everyone of the upcoming 10 digit dialing# will be mandatory October 24, 2021. It was voted on to change the office door locks. Kim Knauf-Wycoff was discussed cmc Treasurer is working on fire signs. Cemetery drive around road ~~is in the plans~~ to be paved. Cemetery and Fire Department Ordinance will be discussed and changes made if needed. Wireless microphones were discussed to purchase for in person meetings. Purchasing property on Lake Bluff discussion. It would provide water access for fire trucks. Theresa Chenier and Pat Beauchamp attended via webinar the MTA Conference. Tom Rymkos will announce if there is an extension to the local State of Emergency to allow meetings to be held electronically.

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**MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Norm Fleury. Second Ray Hughes. Verbal Vote: Chenier YES Norton YES Richer YES Hughes YES Fleury YES Faust YES VanLoon Yes. Meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM.**

The next meeting of the Escanaba Township Planning Commission is scheduled for June 7, 2021 at 7:30pm via ZOOM Conference. Please login to our website [www.escanabatownship.org](http://www.escanabatownship.org) for Meeting ID and passcode or if you require any assistance to join in the meetings contact Cathy Culliton at [cathyculliton@gmail.com](mailto:cathyculliton@gmail.com) call or text 906-280-6182. Agendas are also published on the website.

Meeting minutes by Cathy Culliton, Recording Secretary.

Minutes Approved with corrections May 20, 2021

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Cathy Culliton, Recording Secretary

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Dean VanLoon, Chairperson