

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION AUGUST 16, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

10 PARTICIPANTS

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairperson Dean VanLoon followed by recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call attendance: Present were Theresa Norton, Norman Fleury, Renee Richer, Theresa Chenier and Dean VanLoon. Absent excused: Larry Klope and Greg Faust

Theresa Chenier noted the following changes to the August 2, 2021 Planning Commission minutes: Paragraph 9- In liaison report wording s/b The Board approved a contract (*not donation*) to the Gladstone Library. UPSET is requesting a contract (*not donation*). The Draft minutes also had August 3, 2021 as the meeting date. The corrected date is August 2, 2021. Paragraph 18: the Rod & Gun Club added: - *The Board approval of the design as drawn was passed.*

Motion to accept the August 2, 2021 minutes as modified was made by TheresaN. Second NormF. Verbal vote: TheresaN YES ReneeR YES NormF YES TheresaC YES DeanV YES. Motion passed to accept Aug 2, 2021 minutes as modified.

Public Participation- Fred Minor made comments pertaining to Zoning Special Orders Book should be maintained. Requested response to zoning complaints he has filed.

Dean added Debi Haley to Agenda under New Business. **Motion to accept agenda with addition was made by NormF. Second by ReneeR. Verbal vote; TheresaN YES ReneeR YES NormF YES Therescac YES DeanV YES. Motion passed to approve agenda with addition.**

Zoning Administrators Report: Al Gareau stated there were NO new permits issued since August 1, 2021. The Labumbard blight case is under review by the township's legal council.

Theresa Chenier gave the Board Liaison report: Budget was reviewed to confirm they are on track for the year. They are searching for a Board of Review member. The Board's September meeting was changed from September 13 to September 20, 2021 due to the MTA U.P. Summit conference being held on the 13th and 14th at the Island Resort & Casino in Harris, Michigan. Kim is continuing to gather information for the new fire signs. A *Ground's Keepers Report* has been established. They addressed the Conflict of Interest Ordinance. Fred Knauf is offering his services for mechanical repairs. Cemetery map needs to be updated. There hasn't been an update since 2005. ARPF (American Rescue Plan Fund) monies were applied for. Approximately \$300,000 could be available as soon as September. There are webinars available to educate on what COVID related issues those funds can be used for. Renee added that the American Rescue Plan Fund gives \$99 per resident in the township based on the current census.

No public hearings were scheduled or heard.

OLD BUSINESS: Dottie LaJoie, CUPPAD distributed maps and a worksheet to the members to write down any challenges, opportunities, appropriate and not appropriate uses for the Future Land Use Map. And how do you see that in the next 20 years. Dottie also mentioned she may be able to assist with the cemetery mapping. She noted that the Eastern side of the township appears favorable for development due to the proximity to Escanaba and Gladstone. Dean requested the members work on the worksheets and be ready to discuss at the next meeting. He stressed this is not a change of zoning. It is

how you would like to see the township develop in 20 years. He would like to combine the ideas then present them back to Dottie. Dottie again offered her services to answer any questions as they arise.

Renee asked if the township had previously discussed or approved a Marihuana Ordinance. She did not see Escanaba Township on the opt-in or the opt-out lists that are published. There are licensing to grow, process or sell. There is federal legislation pending on this issue. Theresa said there are MTA webinars available also.

TheresaN suggested to table the Fence Ordinance at this time. It will be a very time consuming process since we do not have a fence ordinance in place now and the Commission currently has other concerns to get completed. NormF voiced that he does not feel it is necessary to have a fence ordinance.

Motion to table the Fence Ordinance discussion and review was made by NormF. Second by TheresaN. Verbal vote: TheresaN YES ReneeR YES NormF YES TheresaC YES DeanV YES. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Fred Minor John Miron

Dean read a letter from Debi Haley asking for consideration to change zoning on property she is interested in purchasing. She would like commercial zoning with the intent of using the property as a wedding venue.

NormF made a motion to deny based on possible spot zoning concern. There was not a second. TheresaN then motioned to table the Haley House proposal until the next meeting. Second by TheresaC. Verbal vote: Theresa N YES ReneeR YES NormF NO TheresaC YES DeanV YES. Motion passed with 4 YES and 1 No.

Renee informed that ~~(there are)~~ ^{Cmc} loans MAY BECOME available for septic systems repair or replace to \$15000.00 w/ 0% interest.

Theresa C reminded the members that during Public Comments, no reply is required. She said the complaint book is up to date. She would like to see a policy in place for a timely response. Also suggested a review of complaint document being used.

Dean reminded everyone that this committee has only been together for a very short time. There are past issues that need to be corrected plus do existing work. It is learning process for all.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by TheresaN. Second by TheresaC. Verbal vote: TheresaN YES ReneeR YES NormF YES TheresaC YES DeanV YES. Motion to adjourn passed.

The next meeting of the Escanaba Township Planning Commission is scheduled for 7:30 pm **TUESDAY** September 7, 2021 at the Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County Rd 416 20th Rd Gladstone MI 49837. If you need any assistance to attend a meeting, please contact Cathy at cathyculliton@gmail.com or 906-280-6182.