

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES APRIL 3, 2023 7:30 PM

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 CO 416 20TH RD GLADSTONE MI 49837

Website: *EscanabaTownship.org*

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

Roll call. Dean VanLoon, Theresa Chenier, Nate Nuemeier, Barbie Clairmont, DJ Dean. All members are present.

Motion to approve March 6, 2023 minutes with spelling corrections made by DJ Dean. Second by B. Clairmont. All in favor. Motion passed.

Public Comments. Bob Barron

Motion to approve agenda made by N.Neuemeier. Second by T.Chenier. All in favor. Motion passed.

No Zoning Administrator report.

Theresa Chenier presented the liaison report for the Township Board. Amendments were made to the budget. FEMA ordinance was passed. Fire Department report stated 12 of 13 local townships are participating in MAVIS for mutual aid. AED is on order for the township hall. They are applying for several grants. A letter of gratitude was received from Menominee paper mill for participating in the mill fire in October 2022. The address sign completion is continuing. Clerk Chenier has been reaching out to the county for assistance in a grant to help cover some of the costs that total \$50-\$60k for signs. The Escanabatownship.org website is up running but not at 100% yet. Chenier asked the residents to give feedback and suggestions for any improvements to the website that can be made. No new *Verso Grow* permits are being granted at this time. Future Land Use Map and zoning amendments were passed to the Master Plan. Roads D12, Rivers Road and D7 are labeled for repairs. General Appropriations Act was approved. A local 4H group is interested in using the township hall for meetings. Developing *Friends of the Fire Department* was discussed to enable fund raising for the fire department. Board is interested in a review of the fee schedule or zoning changes and permits thus requiring amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. The Board heard a resident's complaint on the website which they are addressing. The Future Land Use Map resolution was approved.

OLD BUSINESS. There are 14 zoning designation concerns in conjunction with matching the 2010 Zoning Map requiring additional research. Some have made the map. Some appear to have not. Items 1 through 7 were discussed at the March 2023 meeting. Items 8 through 14 will be discussed tonight. Chenier reached out to 2 former officials at the township for any knowledge they have to help determine clarity. #8 Bob Barron gave in-sight to what he recalled in the N.5 Rd area. Needs additional research. #9 o.k. #10 Needs additional research. #11 change to add strip so it is buildable. #12 o.k. #13 width description clarified. #14 G.5 Rd Ag to RR to be able to build. Chairperson VanLoon would like a list of properties effected either by clarification of description or need more research for corrections. Notices will be published and mailings sent to neighboring property owners, then correct the zoning map. He requested list of clarifications be ready for the May 1, 2023 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS. Clerk Chenier gathered information on rates enforced by other similar townships to assist in decision making for Escanaba Township fee increases. It was unanimously agreed by all members for fee increases due to publishing costs, mailing costs and board costs. N. Neumeier stated he feels these should not be a cost to the township.

A) The following was discussed:

Zoning Permit	\$50
Special Use Permit/Conditional Use Permit	\$300
Re-zoning Application	\$400 Publishing fee & Attorney fee included
PO/Zoning Board of Appeals request	\$400
P.U.D-Planned Unit Development	\$50 per acre-No minimum
Planning Commission Special Meeting Request	\$500
ZBA Special Meeting	\$400
Permit After-the-fact	3 X's the permit fee amount

B) Barron Farms Re-Zoning Request

Mr. VanLoon informed Mr. Bob Barron that the land parcels he has listed on his request form do not appear to be correct. A request form with accurate land parcels listed is needed to continue. Mr. VanLoon informed they can probably schedule an open meeting during the May 1, 2023 regular meeting to continue looking into his request. Notices need to be sent to neighbors and printed publication completed. T. Chenier informed the members the MTA website has information on re-zoning and gave a handout for research on re-zoning.

Chairperson VanLoon gave permission for Chenier to order additional books.

No ZBA hearings were held in March 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS. Steve Viau. Bonnie Hekkala. Fred Minor.

Motion to adjourn was made by Neumeier. Second By Clairmont. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

The next meeting scheduled for the Escanaba Township Planning Commission is May 1, 2023 at 7:30 pm Escanaba Township Hall 4618 Co 416 20th Rd Gladstone MI 49837. Contact 906-280-6182 if you need assistance to attend a meeting.

