

May 28, 2015

The Portage Township Planning Commission May 28, 2015 meeting was called to order by acting chairperson Ted Soldan at 7:00 PM. Present were Ted, Dave Rulison, Melanie Kueber Watkins, Jim Stingle, and Peggy Anderson. Guests Pat Coleman, Connie Sherry, Mike Manderfield, and Bruce Petersen were also present (see attached.)

Supervisor Bruce Peterson said we need to decide on updating the use map. He said he had one bid from Steve LeClaire from LeClaire Geo Svs. in Dollar Bay for \$2,300, and was waiting for another bid from Steve Rouser from WHPTR. Bruce provided a prospective map based on information from the local platt book. There was a great deal of discussion. The consensus was to wait until the second bid came in from WHPTR.

Community member John Hammer spoke next. He expressed concern about how far the zoning board would go in the Green Acres Rd area. Would the zoning changes in the area change the character of the residential area? He asked the planning commission to take their time and do the job right. It was also mentioned that the M1 zone might be extended all the way to Festival Foods.

Rental properties in the township were discussed next. Bruce suggested the township might consider a model like the city of Houghton's. Landlords are required to register rental properties and disclose how many bedrooms they have. The city then determines the maximum number of possible renters, and, among other things, makes sure there is sufficient off-road parking. He said he believed the model in Houghton was 1 renter/bedroom.

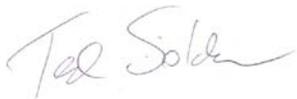
The timeline for completing the zoning ordinance process was discussed. A 15 day notice is required for the public hearing. Then the ordinance can go to the township board. They then give contiguous government entities 30 days to look it over and offer any suggestions. After that, the township board can vote. Pat suggested we are looking at a September timeframe for completion of the process.

Potential next meetings were discussed. June 24 and July 6 were possibilities.

Township resident Connie Sherry said she thought the planning commission was doing a great job.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:26 pm by Dave Rulison, seconded by Melanie Watkins, and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Soldan".

Ted Soldan, Secretary

Planning Commission 5/28/15

1. TED SOLDAN
2. Peggy Lee Anderson
3. Bruce Peterson Guest
4. Constance Sherry - Guest
5. John Hanmer - GUEST
6. Bernice Can
7. Dave Rubson
8. Melanie Watkins
9. ~~the~~ Coleman Norfolk Guest
10. Jim Stangle

Guests:

MICHAEL T MANDERFIELD