

Portage Township Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2023

Present: Soldan, Anderson, Sherry, Griffis, Cronin, Koski, Ollila

Public in Attendance: Schwenk

- **Meeting Called to Order at 6:58pm by Soldan.**
- **Review of October 13, 2022 Minutes. Motion to approve by Sherry, seconded by Anderson. Carried.**
- **Presentation from Ollila on zoning and land use issues and possible revisions to the zoning ordinance.**
 - **Process and requirements of Special Use Permits, noting that when a SUP is requested a Site Plan Review is part of that process.**
 - **Review of SUP application for River Trails development for completeness.**
 - **Review Second 12 of Zoning Ordinance and recommendations for revision from Ollila and Bingham. (see attached)**
 - **Presented review of "Errors and Shortcomings with the Zoning Ordinance" he submitted in August 22. (see attached)**
 - **Subsequent discussion of sign application fees in township. Planning Commission will recommend flat fee of \$20 for application to Township Board.**
- **Public comment held.**
 - **Anderson shared update on Danielson Ditch project, Holmes expects to complete in 2023.**
 - **Anderson mentioned that**
 - **Cronin mentioned MSU Extension Citizen Planner coming to Houghton. Township Board approved PC members to attend if desired.**
 - **Schwenk shared comments from Protect the Pilgrim Point Eagles group regarding the Onagaming development issue:**
 - **"Before the Planning Commission approved the development plan, John Ollila basically told the Planning Commission in the letter he gave to the Planning Commission that he thought the developer's site proposal was complete and in proper order, and said the developer knows what they are doing. He was wrong in how he gave the plan his approval as the zoning administrator. BUT, the planning Commission also is supposed to verify the developers site plan adheres to the Zoning Ordinance, which it did not. So the plan should not have been approved without exceptions as it was. "**
- **Master Plan 5 year update discussed.**
 - **Do we need a consultant? Discussion held.**
 - **PC Members with read the plan for next meeting and prepare to begin process of revising.**
- **Motion to Adjourn by Griffis, seconded by Koski. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.**