

OTSEGO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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March 16, 2009 MINUTES

Call to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Randy Stults.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Commission members present: Chairman Randy Stults, Vice Chairman Ken Arndt, John Ernst, Mike Mang, Chuck Klee, Erma Backenstose, Mike Colosimo, Jim Hilgendorf, Frances Nowak and Ken Borton.

Joe Ferrigan (Land Use Director), Sharon Bolinger (Recording Secretary)

Public present: Larry Bowden, Danny Watson, Alan Hubbard, Brad Jensen, Olen Harris, Colleen Jozwiak, Joe Jarecki, Judi Jarecki.

Approval of minutes from the Master Plan Public Hearing on 02/09/09 with corrections: Motion by Mr. Ernst.

Support: Mr. Hilgendorf.

Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of minutes from Planning Commission meeting 02/23/09 with corrections: Motion by Mr. Borton.

Support: Mr. Klee.

Motion approved unanimously.

Chairman Stults ask for any commission member or public comments on items not on the agenda.

Olen Harris addresses the commission. He was seeking clarification on Section 18.25.8.1 of the ordinance pertaining to excavation. He questioned enforcement of the ordinance.

Mr. Ferrigan explained the chain of the complaints process.

Commission members responded to Mr. Harris's concerns.

Chairman Stults then asked for him to see Mr. Ferrigan during regular Land Use office hours if he has questions pertaining to a specific site.

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Old business item #1 on the agenda.

Mr. Larry Bowden addressed to Commission pertaining to the sign ordinance.

Alan Hubbard from Pro Image Signs gave a presentation as to what Mr. Bowden is proposing to do with the existing signs for his Marsh Ridge signage along Old 27 South.

Chairman Stults asked for a subcommittee to address the current sign ordinance within a timely manner and look into updating the language to grow with current technology. Mr. Klee will chair this and Mr. Ernst and Mr. Arndt will assist him. They will report back at the next Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. Ernst presented his recommendations for additions to the Land Use Definitions section of the draft Master Plan regarding the Pigeon River Country State Forest (attached document). He stated that the Master Plan does not mention that there is a "natural river" in the area.

Chairman Stults asked if it was agreeable with everyone to add a new category for the Pigeon River Country area under Land Use Definitions. All agreed.

There was discussion among Commission Members.

Brad Jensen Executive Director of Huron Pines addressed the commission, regarding the Pigeon River area.

There was discussion among Commission members.

Mr. Ernst suggested adding another sentence to the recommendation letter (see attached document).

Joe Jarecki addressed the commission, regarding the Pigeon River area.

Chairman Stults asked if it was acceptable to everyone to insert this into the Master Plan Draft. All agreed.

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Item #2 on the agenda.

Chairman Stults and the Commission went over the comments made at the Master Plan hearing on Feb. 9 2009.

Chairman Stults suggested listing reference material in the Master Plan Draft. All agreed.

Chairman Stults stated that if there is nothing else to add to the draft Master Plan, are we ready to have it edited? All agreed.

Mr.Ferrigan asked who all wants a copy of the draft Master Plan before it is edited.

Mr. Mang, Mr.Ernst and Mr.Stults would all like to have copies of the changes after it is edited.

Item #3 on the agenda.

Mr. Stults went on to the subcommittee's waiver of fees proposal for Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Arndt gave an overview of the proposed Fee Waiver.

There were multiple discussions among Commission members.

Motion made by Mr. Ernst to make the recommendation as presented to the County Commissioners for approval with the removal of item "J" to adopt the Waiver of Fees (see attached document)for the Planning and Zoning Department.

Support: Mr. Klee.

Motion approved unanimously.

Item #4 on agenda.

Mr. Borton presented the Bylaws proposal from the subcommittee.

There were discussions among Commission members with corrections suggested.

The Commission stopped on Article 4 Section 3. They will restart on Article 4 Section 4 at the first available meeting.

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Item # 5 on agenda.

Mr. Stults asked if any other subcommittee's have reports.

None were ready.

New business.

Mr. Stults asked if anyone on the Planning Commission wanted to volunteer to be on the Parks and Recreation Committee. No one volunteered so Mr. Stults appointed himself.

Old Business Item #6 on agenda.

Mr. Stults put together a list of items to prioritize for the Planning Commission.

Mr. Ernst added the revision of the sign ordinance.

Mr. Arndt questioned putting in the ordinance under what circumstances that the owner of a nonconforming lot that has had an "Act of God" instance can replace a structure.

There were multiple discussions among Commission members.

Mr. Stults added nonconforming lots and defining frontage for lots on water to the list.

Mr. Borton suggested naming this document "Action Items". All agreed.

Mr. Stults agreed to move the sign text change to top priority.

Meeting adjourned 10:03pm.