

Otsego County Planning Commission

Approved Minutes for July 17, 2017

Call to Order: 6:00pm by Chairperson Hartmann

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Chairperson Hartmann, Vice Chairperson Jarecki, Mr. Borton, Mrs. Norton, Mr. Klee, Ms. Corfis

Absent: Mr. Arndt, Mr. Hilgendorf, Mr. Brown, Mr. Caverson, Mr. Bauman

Staff Present: Mr. Mouch, Ms. Boyak-Wohlfeil

Others Present: John Jenkins, Mayor of Gaylord

Approval of minutes from: June 19, 2017

Motion made to approve minutes by Ms. Corfis; Seconded by Mr. Klee

Motion approved unanimously.

Ms. Boyak-Wohlfeil stated the proposed changes to Article 23 had been recommended but a public hearing was needed before the changes could be sent to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. The public hearing will be held at the August meeting.

Consent Agenda: None

Other: None

Public participation for items not on the agenda:

Chairperson Hartmann welcomed John Jenkins, Mayor of Gaylord, and Mr. Borton stated they discussed and had decided attending each other's monthly meeting would keep the lines of communication open and help create awareness of current activities and undertakings going on in the County and City of Gaylord.

Chairperson Hartmann explained the issues with the personal wireless tower being constructed by Cherry Capital Connection on Martindale Rd and referred to Mr. Mouch for an update.

Mr. Mouch stated Cherry Capital had complied with the required documents for the personal tower and had been issued a permit earlier that day. He also stated a home occupation permit for the assembling and selling of custom guns was currently on hold due to a phone call from the ATF (*Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms*) cautioning the issuance of the permit. Mr. Mouch was told it could possibly turn into something bigger so he wanted to bring it to the attention of the Planning Commission. He had spoken with the Sheriff's Department and they had no issues with it.

Ms. Corfis questioned the types of guns being sold and whether the ATF monitored the license.

Mr. Mouch stated the owner was a custom gun maker and the ATF did monitor the sales.

Chairperson Hartmann questioned if a background check was required by the ATF and if they had issued a permit.

Mr. Mouch stated it was a requirement but because the County had suspended its permit until discussion with the Planning Commission, ATF's permit was also suspended.

Otsego County Planning Commission

Approved Minutes for July 17, 2017

Mr. Borton stated if the requirements of the zoning ordinance were being met, the permit should not continue to be suspended. He suggested reviewing the permit in the future to be sure it continued to comply.

Mr. Mouch requested home occupation be added to the list of zoning ordinance sections for review and possible amendments. He continued stating a reduction in permit fees for zoning items had been approved by the Board of Commissioners and the process for enforcements had been streamlined according to the zoning ordinance. Fines for violations were being reviewed.

Public Hearing: None

Advertised Case: None

Unfinished Commission Business:

1. Section 21.38 Signs and Billboards – *Proposed changes*

Chairperson Hartmann stated the Sign Committee had met and the proposed changes for Section 21.38 were being presented.

After discussion, the decision was made to have the Committee review the items suggested. The Committee will set up another meeting.

Chairperson Hartmann stated a meeting was also held concerning Large Tract Forestry as an additional zoning district. It will be sent to the county's attorney for an opinion on pursuing.

New Business: None

Reports and Commission Member's Comments:

1. Otsego County Parks & Recreation report/Judy Jarecki

Mrs. Jarecki reported good attendance at the County Park with steady usage of both new and old cabins; the Parks and Recreation Department will assume responsibilities for the upkeep of the dog park at Pontresina Park; rebuilding of the existing softball field at Libke Field will include covering it with diamond dust; and the Parks' seasonal employees will be placed on a rotation schedule to help cover vacation times for all the different sites.

2. Land Use Services report/Jim Mouch

See previous comments.

Ms. Boyak-Wohlfeil stated errors on the zoning map were found and being researched for corrections; once the corrections were made, zoning maps for each township would be produced and added to the website for viewing and printing.

Chairperson Hartmann thanked Land Use for their hard work and all the information provided.

Mr. Borton stated Mr. Burt had moved on to his new position and Mrs. Frisch was transitioning well to her new role. He stated Mark Miller from the DNR (*Department of Natural Resources*) had met with them concerning state land. Previously the DNR did not consult local government with their plans for that land but now there were three (3) factors to be weighed equally, conservation, recreation and economic impact. He felt it was a move in the right direction as far as planning with the local government.

Otsego County Planning Commission

Approved Minutes for July 17, 2017

Chairperson Hartmann stated he had heard the grants for ARTA (*Alpine Regional Tennis Association*) and Corwith Township were being held up but was not sure why. The legislation had been signed but monies not yet released.

Mr. Borton stated the ORV grants and snowmobile trail grants were also being held up. It had been discussed at the MAC (*Michigan Association of Counties*) meeting that morning and would be reported on once an answer was found.

Vice Chairperson Jarecki stated some of the legislators wanted to change how the trust fund money was awarded and thought that may have something to do with the delay.

Chairperson Hartmann welcomed Mrs. Norton, Chester Township's new representative and asked about her background.

Mrs. Norton stated she joined Chester's Planning Commission the beginning of the year; she lived in the area since 1958 and moved to Chester Township two (2) years ago. She's now retired, having previously worked for her brother at Kowatch Builders and then in accounting at Miller & Cook, township auditors, hence the reason Chester wanted her on board.

Chairperson Hartmann adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment: 6:53pm by Chairperson Hartmann

Ken Arndt; Secretary

Christine Boyak-Wohlfeil; Recording Secretary