

Ishpeming Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes for March 01, 2021
(Agenda items are in bold text)

A. Call to order -- for the Ishpeming Planning Commission was by Chairperson Gabe Seelen at 6:35 P.M.

B. Roll Call --

Present: Gabe Seelen, John Carlson, Brooke Routhier, Ty Hyatt, Mike Kinnunen, Lindsay Bean, and Harry Weikel.

Absent: Bruce Houghton

Public present: Al Pierce, Zoning Administrator.

C. Public Comment -- No members of the Public were present and Public Comment was closed at 6:36 P.M.

D. Approval of Agenda --The agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Brooke Routhier supported by Lindsay Bean.

E. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes -- The meeting minutes of January 04, 2021 were approved unanimously as presented upon a motion by John Carlson supported by Brooke Routhier.

F. Presentations - none.

G. Public Hearings -- none.

H. New Business

1. Discussion on Future Marijuana Recommendation to the City Council

Lindsay updated Commissioners on the thoughts, discussions and ideas of the Planning Commission's ad hoc Marijuana sub-committee meeting from February 23. Revisions to the ordinance would include both Medical and Recreational Marijuana. It would not be permitted in venues where alcohol is sold / consumed. Additionally, no consumption, establishments, fairs or events would be permitted. Sales could be accommodated in the GC (General Commercial) and CBD (Central Business District). Growing operations could be permitted in the GC (General Commercial), I (Industrial) and DD (Deferred Development) districts. Distance from schools could be lowered to 250' with the adoption of a special ordinance meeting the requirements of the State Licensing Acts. The State statutes limit purchasers to be at least 21 years old. A \$5,000 application fee is proposed. The format utilized by Negaunee Township is simple and encouraged to be tailored to Ishpeming's specific requirements.

Discussion among Commissioners was positive and the concepts presented were in accord with last month's group discussion. The Planning Commission, as a matter of group consensus, felt that the information and guidelines presented should be transmitted to the City Attorney as defining the framework for preparation of a draft ordinance.

2. Meeting Handout of Planning and Zoning News Marihuana Updates No's 16, 17, 19 & 20

Al encouraged Commissioners to review the handout information as it is important background information for the Michigan regulation of Medicinal / Recreational Marihuana.

3. RRC Required Draft Development Guide - Review

Al furnished a Draft copy of the Development Guide dated February 24, 2021 for informational purposes as a work in progress. The goal is to provide the general public with an on-line document that would guide them through all the zoning details for applications and hearings and simplify the zoning "maze".

4. Ryan Soucy AICP, Master Plan Continuation in April 2021

To be continued.

I. Old Business – Malton Road Campground and Malton Rustic Camping Maps

A group has been meeting and discussing these potential camping areas near the Southerly terminus of Malton Road. The campground is proposed to have 105 total RV stations on the East side of Malton Road near Negaunee's Sanitary Force Main and the old Landfill cover borrow pit. It has been opposed by the owners of the Country Village RV Park, which is a tax paying entity, as an unnecessary competitor in a limited market. Further planning apparently will not be continued.

The Rustic campsites are proposed on either side of Malton Road in the vicinity of the rock bluff, with 41 rustic sites (East) and 11 rustic sites (West). The Western sites may be able to have water from the East New York St. location. Interest in the Eastern sites is not known presently known. Sites on the West side of Malton Road may have a better potential for development, especially if the State approves an extension of water service.

J. Correspondence – none

K. Meeting Adjournment was unanimous upon a motion by Brooke Routhier supported by John Carlson at 8:38 P.M.

Prepared By: 
Alan K. Pierce, Planning Commission Assistant Secretary

Reviewed By: 
Bruce Houghton, Planning Commission Secretary