

Ishpeming Planning Commission  
Meeting Minutes for August 02, 2021  
**(Agenda items are in bold text)**

**A. Call to order --** for the Ishpeming Planning Commission was by Acting Chairperson Harry Weikel at 6:30 P.M.

**B. Roll Call --**

*Present:* Brooke Routhier, Mike Kinnunen, Harry Weikel, Lindsay Bean, David Lawler, John Carlson and Ty Hyatt @ 6:58 P.M.

*Absent:* Bruce Houghton and Gabe Seelen.

*Public present:* Ryan Soucy, Ryan Carrig, Dan Perkins, May Tsupros and Al Pierce, Zoning Administrator.

**C. Public Comment** – None - Public Comment was closed at 6:37 P.M.

**D. Approval of Agenda** –The agenda was approved unanimously upon a motion by Lindsay Bean supported by John Carlson.

**E. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – The meeting minutes of June 07, 2021 were approved unanimously upon a motion by Lindsay Bean supported by John Carlson.

**F. Presentations**

Dan Perkins introduced May Tsupros who will present new hopes for Ishpeming Farming and the next generation of Food Production. The “farm” is pursuing a Michigan Health Endowment fund grant.

**1. Partridge Creek Farm – Intergenerational Farm and Teaching Campus @ “Jasperlite”**

May shared some exciting news about receiving a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund in 2021 and beginning plans for a 2-acre, intergenerational farm next to Ishpeming High School and the Jasperlite Senior Housing. This site will be the foundation of an elevated and expanded Farm-to-School and Ag Tech program, in partnership with Ishpeming School District, MARESA, MI STEM, NMU, GA HAAN and more. Last year 1600 lbs. of food were shared with Ishpeming Schools. A garden at Birchview is in progress. The proposed “Community Farm” at Jasperlite has the potential to produce 30,000 lbs. of food in a year and is an excellent location for an intergenerational farm. Community focus groups can be initiated this Fall season. A lease with Haan Development is in process. Al shared his initial thoughts regarding the furnished plan schematic and expressed concerns with some gardening structures and their location in regards to Winter snow plowing. Facility maintenance should be the main consideration and placement of gardens and permanent supporting facilities secondary. All uses should be able to be accommodated and successful. Approval of State of Michigan financing agencies should also be secured as plans develop. May spoke on recruitment and Senior student buy-in. John spoke on the positive effect on the school campus, healthful lunch items and the natural habitat area for the bees. There was mention of a possible urban agricultural zoning addition.

**G. Public Hearings** – none.

## **H. New Business**

### **1. Ryan Soucy AICP, Future Land Use Map**

#### **a. Master Plan Continuation (Handouts at Meeting)**

Ryan handed out Working Future Land Use Maps with 10 different colors and no depiction as to the designation title or category. The categories were explained as: Agriculture, Low Impact Recreation, General Residential, Industrial, Publicly owned properties /Institutional / Public Uses, General Commercial, Neighborhood Commercial, Mining, Single Residential, and Multiple Residential. Other categories mentioned with future potential included Educational Campus, Historical District, Urban Agricultural, Low Impact Recreation, and Outdoor Innovation District.

There was a fair amount of give and take discussion on issues and opportunities that is expected to move the Future Land Use Map forward. The potential addition of “Urban Agriculture’s” addition to the Zoning Ordinance whether as a Zoning District, Permitted Use or Conditional Use was discussed. The consensus opinion was to take a “wait and see “attitude and assess the best way to proceed.

#### **b. Regional Outdoor Innovation District**

This nominal district would enhance industry clusters for outdoor manufacturing and would be of benefit for many other programs as well.

### **2. Malton Road Recreation and Development**

Discussion was again held by Commissioners regarding this area and it continued to be difficult to make any meaningful progress. The continued lack of any maps depicting IOHT trails, RAMBA trails, Horseback trails, hiking trails, snowmobile / motorized trails, restricted Brownstone areas (locations which can’t be excavated but only filled), area(s) impacted by Howard Oil and capped landfill subsurface plume movement, newly approved City land sales, areas of potential mining subsidence, does not promote realistic land use planning. The lengthy and difficult discussions among the Commissioners was again reflective of the outcome. Meetings with other stakeholders, including the Parks and Recreation Commission, are planned for the future.

## **I. Old Business**

### **1. Scaled Back Medical/Recreational Marijuana Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance**

There was no discussion due to the lateness of the hour.

## **J. Correspondence – none**

**K. Meeting Adjournment** was unanimous upon a motion by Brooke Routhier supported by John Carlson at 9:18 P.M.

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

**Reviewed By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Houghton, Planning Commission Secretary