

Milton Township
Planning Commission
Approved Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2016

Members present: Chairman Hefferan, Cole, Kingon, Stilson, Lefebvre, and Kopkau

Also present: Weinzapfel and two audience members

Hefferan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Approval of meeting minutes dated October 11, 2016:

Motion by Kingon to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Kopkau. **Motion carried.**

Meetings and Announcements:

There may be some training available in the future. Details will be forthcoming. The grant for Maplehurst came through. The conservancy is looking at putting up a fence around the house and more substantial gates to keep trespassers out. The Township did not receive the Bigelow development grant. We will try for that grant again next year. Buildings will start to be removed soon. They will also be looking at the run off issues on that road end access. Update on planning for Tart Trail extension from Traverse City to Charlevoix.

Township Board Report:

Cole discussed some of the opposition's points regarding the Tart Trail extension. Cole also discussed the development grant at the Bigelow property.

Agenda:

1. Northern Michigan Docks Presentation
2. Recreational Vehicle Seasonal Park
3. Sign Ordinance
4. Fireworks
5. Shoreline Protection
6. Set Agenda for January 2017

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Lefebvre to approve the agenda. Seconded by Cole. **Motion carried.**

Northern Michigan Docks Presentation:

Richard Moran of Northern Michigan Docks wanted to discuss a possible zoning amendment regarding the length and depth of residential docks on Torch Lake. He has seen some issues over the years with the capacity and size of boats. They are getting deeper, wider, and more substantial. This affects the size and weight of the docks and hoists that hold them. Many townships state you are allowed to go out a certain distance or until you hit 4 feet of useable draft. With heavier boats and larger framed lifts, people do what they want because there is not a lot of enforcement. The way we run our company, we want to be compliant. We've seen owners who are burying their lifts to give them more draft. This is bad for the ecology of the lakes.

Hefferan reviewed chapter 3 of the ordinance, which states that docks can go to 80 feet or a draft of 4 feet. Hefferan asked regarding the other townships around the lakes. Most of the other townships have a clause like ours. Hefferan created a subcommittee to look at the issue.

Lefebvre volunteered for the subcommittee and to chair it. Kingon and Cole will also be on the subcommittee. It will be called Boat Dockage Recommendations and will meet on Monday, January 9th at 9 am.

Recreational Vehicle Seasonal Park:

Kingon discussed a draft dated October 12, 2016. Members discussed changes and updates to the draft. Cole brought up the potential problems with the accessory structures language. Kingon suggested leaving it as is.

Motion by Cole to schedule a public hearing for January 10, 2017 for Recreational Vehicle Seasonal Park ordinance amendment. Seconded by Kingon **Motion carried.**

Sign Ordinance:

Cole proposed language that addresses house numbering signs in the sign ordinance. Cole said it's also been discussed in the courts that you can regulate where signs are placed, but not what is on the signs. Weinzapfel suggested we take this back to subcommittee and take a new look at the sign ordinance in light of this. He will contact MTA in regards to this and we will discuss when we have additional information.

Fireworks:

Weinzapfel suggests removing this from the agenda as nothing is progressing with this now.

Shoreline Protection:

This subcommittee has not met recently, but will meet Monday, January 9th at 10 am.

Set Agenda for January 2017:

1. Set annual of dates and election of officers
2. Recreational Vehicle Seasonal Park Public Hearing
3. Boat Dockage Regulation Subcommittee Report
4. Shoreline Protection Subcommittee Report
5. Signs Subcommittee Report

Meeting adjourned by order of the chair at 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Merillat