

Milton Township  
Planning Commission  
Unapproved Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 2021

Members present: Chairman Hefferan, Kingon, Cole, Merillat, and Kopkau

Also present: 7 audience members.

Members absent: Lefebvre and Ford.

Hefferan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of meeting minutes dated August 10, 2021:  
Minutes approved as presented by **unanimous consent**.

ZA Position Update:

Cole said the township has hired Sarah Kopriva who works for Beckett & Raeder out of the Traverse City office. She has been working with Torch Lake Township as their ZA. They have an assistant and she is training that assistant. The plan is to hire her and to hire an assistant to help with paperwork. One problem we have is that she is already working with Torch Lake Township and they meet on the same night. We will need to pick a different day of the month.

Township Board Report:

Cole discussed neighbors that are feuding over noise. The police have stopped out. There is no noise ordinance and one of the parties is asking for a noise ordinance. They were told to look at civil action. Cole also discussed an update on remote meetings. The board did not commit to anything regarding video meetings.

ZBA Report:

Kingon said there was a public hearing last month for a variance to allow for a better entrance into the home. One member saw something in the ordinance that could allow it. The request was tabled until the new zoning administrator can review the question.

Kopkau submitted her letter of resignation. October 2021 will be her last meeting. Hefferan thanked her for her 12 years of service.

Kingon discussed attending the ER Village Council meeting.

Public Comment:

A citizen discussed the RV park and her opposition to it.

Linda Spevak discussed the RV park and her opposition to it.

John Spevak, president of TESA, commended the commission for their work on the RV park. He commented on how this matter will most likely need to go to court because there is a gap in the

authority here.

Mark White said he does not want a bunch of restrictions on the use of road ends. Residents have used them for years.

Kington asked about creating an anti-grubbing, anti-clearing ordinance. Hefferan said he is not opposed to looking at things. He suggested putting the question to the whole commission in the future.

Agenda:

1. Steep Slopes Subcommittee Report.
2. Road Ends Subcommittee Report.
3. Meeting Dates.
4. Set agenda for October meeting.

**Motion** to approve agenda by Kopkau. Seconded by Kington. **Motion carried.**

1. Steep Slopes Subcommittee Report:

Cole said the subcommittee will begin gathering information. Fifteen percent slope seems to be the common dividing point. Some ordinances have linked lot size to slope. He reviewed an ordinance from Lee High Valley. The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date as Ford and Lefebvre are not here tonight. The general feeling is we need more information to determine if we have a need for a new ordinance.

2. Road Ends Subcommittee Report:

Cole said the subcommittee met on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and there were items such as volumes of traffic, signage, landscaping, and parking, inland vs Great Lakes discussed. Can each road end be treated differently or must they all be treated the same? There are a lot of legal issues. Kington said they have realized not all road ends are equal. If it is in a platted subdivision, there are other issues. Kington said we are wrestling with those questions. Cole said some regulations only seem to apply to inland lakes regarding mooring and overnight use. Cole said there is not a new law, but there are court cases that have set precedents. Hefferan said we currently have a police ordinance in regards to our road ends. Merillat read from the ordinance. We deal with use, parking, and camping. It was adopted in 1982 and amended March 13, 2000. Hefferan said these matters have the possibility of people getting passionate.

Hefferan reminded the commission that chairs of the subcommittees need to provide minutes. Merillat said unless we are going to modify the ordinance, it should go to parks and rec for landscaping changes or signage to clarify our ordinances requirements at each site. Merillat said the subcommittee did not feel that the language of the ordinance needed to be the changed. Kington said it would be helpful to have council from the zoning administrator. Hefferan said he will check with the township board regarding clearer direction.

3. Meeting Dates:

Possible meeting dates were discussed. Hefferan and Kington suggested a special meeting with the new ZA before we start changing our schedule.

4. Set Agenda for October Meeting:

1. Steep Slopes Subcommittee.
2. Road Ends Subcommittee.
3. Meeting dates.
4. Set agenda for November.

Meeting adjourned by order of the chair at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Merillat