

Gerrish Township Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
March 4, 2010

Regular meeting was called to order by at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, BARBER, at the Gerrish Township Municipal Center.

Present: Tom Barber, Bill Case, Nate Alyas, Bob Hoffman, Jim Ostling and Trustee Gary Long

Absent: Mary Ann Russom

Attending: Robert Yaske, Gerrish Township Zoning Administrator, Terry Newton, Assistant Zoning Administrator, Larry Paxton and Tricia Roberts

Motion by OSTLING, supported by LONG to approve the Minutes of February 4, 2010, six (6) in favor, zero (0) opposed

AGENDA CHANGES: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Housekeeping items from Land Plan including:

- a. Planning Commission Ordinance
- b. Planning Commission Bylaws
- c. Subdivision/Land Division Ordinance

Mark Eidelson of Land Plan has offered to bring all three (3) up to date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CURRENT BUSINESS:

- a. Section 20.22 – Outdoor Furnaces: YASKE pointed out that through extensive research there are many variances between ordinance of other townships and communities. Especially concerning the use of spark arresters on chimneys. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by HOFFMAN to send the ordinance as presently drafted to Mark Eidelson, so he can incorporate it into the new ordinance. Seconded by LONG.

Tricia Roberts then brought up the problem concerning front yard setbacks in larger parcels of property and the fact that outdoor furnaces could not be placed in front yards even though room was available and the house was too far back on the property to allow furnace placement in the back yard. After through discussion, the motion and second were withdrawn by HOFFMAN and LONG for clarification.

Subject to be addressed at next meeting.

- b. Section 20.12 – Higgins Lake Shoreline Stabilization and Definition for possible changes. Discussion on re-write and validity. OSTLING presented a concern on the

use of Geo-Text cloth being put under rip rap seawalls. OSTLING feels that the cloth prevents the natural growth of plant and life and also keeps the rocks from burrowing into the sand bottom thus securing the seawall. However, he also feels that there could be some areas of shoreline that would benefit from using the cloth. CASE is looking into the validity of using cloth as it is recommended by Tip of The Mitt and possibly by the Army Corp of Engineers. A possible re-wording of the seawall ordinance will be offered at the next Planning Commission meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Review Agricultural Use or District Zoning: BARBER passed out and went over the pros and cons of an Agricultural Zoned area.

Larry Paxton spoke opposition of re-zoning the Agriculture District. BARBER explained in thorough detail the benefits and problems of such a re-zoning.

Board Action: Decided to prepare total ordinance package for presentation to the Gerrish Township Board.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by acting secretary, Bill Case.