Rock River Township

Planning Commission Mtg – March 11th, 2024 - Proposed minutes

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

Members present: Rowan Bunce, Tammy Shega, Olivia Kingery, Jon Rondeau, Eric Artress

Guests: Scott Bunce, Bill Valima, Heidi Swajanen, Jana Hytinen, Robin Maki, Dawn Rondeau

Motion by Kingery and supported by Shega to approve the proposed December 11th minutes. All ayes. Motion passed.

Motion by Bunce and supported by Artress to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion passed.

Public Comment – Bill Valima, Superintendent of Superior Central Schools – would like a copy of the Recreation Plan so they can be on the same page etc. Dawn Rondeau – twp board voted on the storage containers and it should not have.

Election of officers – Kingery previously nominated by Shega and motion supported for chair. Shega, Artress, Kingery, Bunce are ayes; Rondeau – nay. Vice Chair is J. Rondeau. Kingery nominated and Bunce supported nominating T. Shega for secretary. All ayes.

Communications –Bunce touched on the CUPPAD meeting and will go over more during Master Plan and Rec Plan discussion.

Zoning Administrator report. Zoning permit is on the way for a house on Parkilla Road. Regarding the enforcement policy we talked about previously; he needs to know who does what and when. Often times, communities will adopt an enforcement policy and he will send us a couple from other townships and zoning commissions to look at. He has looked at the renewable sustainable energy legislation and has tried to contact Vicki Ballas who seems to be the contact in Alger County but has not yet to be able to. Planning Commission should have a work session to plan on zoning amendments which need a hearing. He also brought up sign ordinance that may need updating. Wants to look at an amendment package to cover all of them. Bunce and Kingery touched on the fact Kingery and Shega attended an online seminar regarding the CREO legislation and what townships were advised to do about it.

Old Business – Master Plan, Recreation Plan

According to meeting with CUPPAD’s director, use the census data that we have and can use links to allow people to connect directly with our data online, instead of making tables for print. Unless CUPPAD is doing the MP for us, they don’t need to review it. Once it is done, we send it to CUPPAD (along with the surrounding townships and municipalities and any other public organizations including the county board) and all public utilities for their review. The easiest way to review our Future Use Map is to start with a zoning area and work through it. VRBO ordinance didn’t need to go to her either, so she advised us to pass it.

For our Rec Plan, she advised that Julia Cogger does park and recreational playground and design and to call her in regard to any changes we are planning for our facilities and playground. Rec Plan should be done by the end of the December so that we are in time for future grant writing. We will update what the school and Village have within their boundaries also.

Work session next Monday at 6:00 to work with the MP and Rec Plan. Check with Wilma Hill for an updated road list.

New Business - Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance/Citizens for Local Choice Petition and green energy law passed by the state. Kingery gave report on online seminar that she and Shega attended – basically we can work on set-backs in regard to the CREO in the township capacity. Use and storage proposed regulations were also reviewed.

Announcements – Township is looking for applications for Treasurer. Alger Co Conservation District has annual meeting on March 19th at Gallery Coffee in Munising.

Public Comment – Jana Hytinen – Will we have any informational meetings for the area in regard to CREO. It was noted that they have been held at the Gallery Coffee in Munising but we will check to see if they will come to our area.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Rondeau and supported by Shega. All ayes. Adjourned at 8:09.