

Minutes of the January 5, 2016 Meeting of the Manitowish Waters Planning Commission

Meeting called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Chairman Sleight.

Commissioners in attendance: Sleight, Rayala, Hanson, Hoehn, Behnke, Johns

Absent: Bauers

Also present: Zoning Administrator Thiessen

Public Visitors: Tyrel Rayala, Kevin Griffith, Greg Holt

Motion by Johns, second by Rayala, to approve agenda as posted and waive the reading.

Motion carried.

Public Comments/Correspondence

Comments by K. Griffith on the project approval process and eliminating controversy through-out the process.

Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion by Hanson, second by Behnke, to approve the December 1, 2015 meeting minutes and the December 22, 2015 special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator's Report

Zoning Administrator Thiessen presented 4th Q 2015 and yearly total reports with number of permits issued, property valuations, and written summary.

Secretary's Report

Hoehn presented the Secretary's hours for approval. Motion by Johns, second by Rayala to approve. Motion carried, with Hoehn abstaining. No invoices were received.

Enforcement of the Comprehensive Plan

Comments by Sleight on loss of local control and the need to use the plan to its fullest potential. Comments by Hanson that the plan has no enforcement powers as it is a plan, not an ordinance like the zoning ordinances. Counter argument by Sleight that the plan is required by state statute and adopted by the town and County and is the foundation of the zoning ordinances. Discussion on state statutes regarding planning commissions and waterways, only approving proposed projects based upon the plan, acceptance of projects donated to the town by the town, and a series of questions to present to the town's attorney for clarification.

Matters Relating to Donations to the Town

Comments by Griffith on bike trail bridge drawings and design considerations. Discussion on the December 22, 2015 special meeting and the lack of updated drawings. Discussion on the donated sign to be installed along Hwy 51 where the trail crosses by Marathon Road and questions on the purpose of the sign and where it came from.

Amendments to the Manitowish Waters Zoning Ordinance

No discussion or action on Article IX Subdivision Control and Approval. Discussion on defining "Clear Cutting." Discussion on tree cutting for parking lots. No action proposed or taken.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Hanson reported that he has placed an ad in the next Towns Assoc. newsletter. Proposes sending an email to companies that do plan updates. Also proposes that if a downtown plan is done, that the Petersons (Ilg) be involved the process. Discussion on adding addendums to the plan update Request for Proposals for options for downtown district planning and wayfinding signage. Motion by Behnke, second by Rayala, that the Request for Proposals be sent out with the suggested changes. Motion carried.

Other matters for discussion

Regarding the proposed town hall addition, discussion on if it would be best to work with one designer/builder for now or go ahead right away and seek proposals from several firms.

Next scheduled meeting February 2, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.

Meeting declared adjourned by Chairman Sleight. Time was 7:15 P.M.