

Minutes of the February 7, 2017 Meeting of the Manitowish Waters Planning Commission

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairman Sleight.

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

Absent: Bauers

Also present: Zoning Administrator Thiessen

Public Visitors: Ron Troller, Chris Troller, Deb Skrobot, Greg Holt, Mike Kramer, Kim Kost, Tom Joseph, Kevin Griffith, Evan Verploegh, Bob Becker, Barry Hopkins, Lisa Hopkins, John Butler

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

Public Comments/Correspondence

None

Motion by Hanson, second by Behnke, to approve the following minutes as presented:

1. January 17, 2017 Rest Lake Apartments CUP Hearing
2. January 17, 2017 Camp Jorn 2 CUP Hearing
3. January 17, 2017 Regular Meeting
4. February 6, 2017 Special Joint Meeting

Zoning Administrator's Report

Thiessen stated that he had nothing of note to report.

Secretary's Report

Hoehn reported that he did, as instructed, respond via individual email to the public survey participants who had comments and/or questions and whom also provided contact information. Hoehn further reported that he did, as instructed, mail to Steve Peterson of the DNR printed copies of the written correspondence received as testimony for the January 10, 2017 public hearing held on the Tower Road – Manitowish River Bike Trail Loop, as well as a copy of the minutes and a written copy of the notes taken of the oral testimony.

Hoehn presented his hours for approval as well as a copy of an invoice from Copy Cat Printing for printing 10 bound copies of the newly updated zoning ordinance.

Motion by Hanson, second by Johns, to approve the Secretary's time sheet. Motion carried, with Hoehn abstaining.

Motion by Johns, second by Behnke, to approve payment of the Copy Cat invoice. Motion carried.

Discussion/action relating to the January 10, 2017 public hearing testimony on the Tower Rd – Manitowish River Bike Trail Loop.

Question from C. Troller on how many of the letters received by Bike Trail Inc. were from town residents. The Commission could not answer that question as the Commission has never seen those letters.

Question from K. Kost on status of answers to list of questions presented in previous meeting. Answers to those questions are not yet available.

Discussion on the connection to Mercer and a crossing at Tower Road. Rayala reported that the cost of the connection with a crossing at Tower Road is estimated at \$31,000. Rayala further reported he is seeking a quotation on the cost of siting the bike trail in the right-of-way of Tower Road.

Comment by T. Joseph urging some broader planning on bike trails in Manitowish Waters.

Reports from Town committees relevant to the work of the Commission

No discussion or action.

Donations to the Town

No discussion or action

Amendments to the Manitowish Waters Zoning Ordinance Articles I – XIII

The updated ordinance is available on the Planning and Zoning page of the town website.

Discussion on Act 55, its effect on our ordinance, and status of challenges to Act 55.

Discussion on reviewing Article VI as it relates to electronic signs, revising the subdivision ordinance by referencing the County ordinance, and addressing parking lots.

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Commission reviewed the revised draft of Chapter 4. Hanson stated that the Section 4.7 as it relates to recreational trails needs to be redone, and that he would attempt it. Discussion on the elimination of Goal 7.7 and the recommendation under 4.3, and on revisions to Goal 7.3 and Sections 4.8, 4.9, and 4.10.

The Commission reviewed the revised draft SWOT. Suggestion to add reduced fish and game levels as a threat, and working with organizations such as Walleyes for Tomorrow as an opportunity. Suggestion to remove the word "Over" from the word "Over-dependence" under Weaknesses. Dissatisfaction with the phrase "Promote unique residential facilities" under Opportunities.

Next meeting March 7, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

Meeting declared adjourned by Chairman Sleight. Time was 7:28 P.M.