

Minutes of the **March 3, 2020** Meeting of the Manitowish Waters Planning Commission

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

Commissioners Present: Dan Sleight, Vince Hoehn, Mike Kramer, John Hanson, Robert Becker
Also Present: Zoning Administrator Tom Thiessen

Public Visitors: Craig VanArk, Greg Holt

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Becker, second by Hanson, to approve the agenda as posted and waive the reading.
Motion carried.

Public Comments and Correspondence

None

Governmental Correspondence

None

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Motion by Kramer, second by Becker, to approve the January 7, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator's Report

ZA Thiessen introduced Craig VanArk, who wishes to build 1 or 2 rental units on his 2 ½ acre Olde Shillelagh parcel. He could use the residences to house the exchange students working at the bar in the summer and rent to snowmobilers in the winter. He wants to have the option to be able to keep any rental units when it comes time to sell the Olde Shillelagh. Under current zoning he needs 3 acres to subdivide. Possible to rezone to Business?

Discussion on subdivision requirements, spot zoning questions, transitioning to condominium ownership, minimum building sizes and density. Owner to discuss transitioning to condominium units with the County.

Thiessen reported that Pukall Lumber has no place for a sign out front – it is all necessary parking lot. They wish to put the additional wording "Showroom" and "Design" underneath existing wall signs. Any additional signage would likely require some type of variance, but before that could be determined some measurement of the existing signage must be made.

Thiessen and Hanson reported that regarding the zoning violations at 5647 Seybold Rd and on Avenue of the Balsams the County is not imposing fines if the owner enters into a restoration agreement – in other words, the County is allowing owners to do whatever they want if they are willing to throw some money at restoration after-the-fact. By consensus, the Planning Commission does not agree with that approach, and believes fines are necessary. Our disagreement with the County's approach should be communicated to the County zoning committee.

Regarding the violations on the Avenue of the Balsams, Hanson reported that today the Town Clerk received a summons dated Feb 28 requiring a response within 45 days to a lawsuit the named plaintiff has filed against the Town for damages in the amount of \$24,000 allegedly suffered by the plaintiff due to the actions of a town official. (This is in reference to the zoning administrator lawfully exercising his duties in the investigation of apparent zoning violations at the behest of a County zoning deputy.) This matter is in the hands of the Town's insurance company.

Discussion on the amount of fine to assess. Consensus is \$100/day. Thiessen is to send letters of notification of the finding of a violation.

Thiessen reported on the receipt of a preliminary condominium plat for the property located at 5524/5528 US Highway 51. The project of 4 duplexes has been approved in principle by the County. What Thiessen has seen so far appears to meet our standards.

Secretary Report

Hoehn presented the secretary's hours for approval. Motion by Becker, second by Kramer, to accept the secretary's report. Motion carried, with Hoehn abstaining.

New Business

No discussion or action.

Next scheduled meeting: No meeting scheduled for April. One will be called if it becomes necessary to have one before May 5th.

Meeting declared adjourned by Chair Sleight. Time was 6:47 P.M.