

Gerrish Township Planning Commission

Regular Meeting April 6, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Barbara Polisei.

Members present: Wansa, Case, Boyle, Link, Hoffman, Polisei

Members absent: Tucker

Attending: Jason Janson, Chief Hill, Clerk Patchin, and two residents

Motion by Link, seconded by Wansa, to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2017, meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Agenda order changed.

Clerk Patchin started the discussion pertaining to the proposed Septic Ordinance. The Board wants clarification as to the Planning Commission's intent. Sequence of approval of the proposed Ordinance was discussed. Clarification needs to be made as to whether the proposed Ordinance is a 'stand alone' Ordinance or is it an 'amendment/addition' to the Zoning Ordinance. Clerk Patchin will research and present her findings to the Board at its Regular Meeting, Tuesday, April 11. The Board will then decide if and/or when it is going to move forward for a Public Hearing prior to acceptance.

Chief Hill distributed copies of 'Up in Smoke! Changes to Michigan's Marihuana Law' by Ken Stecker who is part of the Traffic Safety Training Program Staff (TSTP) with the Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan. (PAAM). Chief Hill summarized Mr. Stecker's article and explained that the State of Michigan has passed a law which created a licensing Board. The law requires this State licensing Board to establish, maintain and utilize a 'seed to sale' tracking system for all marihuana. Five types of licenses will be created and regulated by the State. The licenses are Grower, Processor, Secure Transporter, Provisioning Center, and Safety Compliance Facility. Each license was explained by Chief Hill and discussed by the Planning Commission members. The Planning Commission needs direction from the Township Board as to which, if any, of the five licenses they would want to be permitted in the Township via an Ordinance.

A zoning issue was then presented to the Planning Commission by Jason Janson. A house that has undergone extensive remodeling is discovered to be unable to secure bank financing since it is a residential home in a commercial zoned area and would not be permitted rebuilding in the event of extensive fire damage. Spot re-zoning is not permitted per the Zoning Ordinance so the Planning

Commission is unable to act without direction from the Township Board. A recommendation was made that a request of re-zoning be submitted by the interested parties to the Township Board for their decision of further action, if any.

No proposed Police Power Outdoor Entertainment Ordinance or Amplified Sound Ordinance has been received so action postponed until such can be reviewed.

Open Line: The Planning Commission's request from the Township Board regarding their position on the proposed raising of the height restriction on accessory buildings to 21 feet from the present 17 feet was not received. Planning Commission discussion indicated that all members are not in favor of such a change since procedures are currently in place if the resident wishes to go higher than 17 ft. The ZBA is then able to determine if the increase in height is justified and rule accordingly.

Trustee Link then updated the Planning Commission regarding increased costs for the compost site. Multiple commercial entities are using the facility since they can do so without incurring any fees. The Planning Commission recommends that the Township Board research how other Townships have resolved the situation and follow suit. This matter is not Zoning and/or Ordinance related and not an area for Planning Commission action.

No Public comments.

Motion by Wansa, seconded by Polisei, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Norma Lee Boyle, Secretary