

Keweenaw County Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting  
January 26, 2021

Keweenaw County Courthouse 4:10 PM

Roll Call:     John Parsons Zoom,                             Steve Siira Zoom,  
                   Barry Koljonen Zoom,                             Dan Steck Zoom,  
                   Jim LaMotte Zoom,  
                   Jim Vivian, Excused

Ann Gasperich, present

4 Member quorum is present via zoom, and the meeting was appropriately posted.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**M/S Koljonen/Parsons** to approve the agenda with the election of officers moved to the position between zoning administrator's report and Final Public Comments and change the date of the October meeting to the 27th. Roll call Vote, Barry, yes, John, yes, Jim, yes, Steve, yes, Dan, yes, motion passed.

**M/S Steck/LaMotte** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting and Public Hearing on October 27, 2020, roll call Vote, Dan, yes, Jim, yes, Jim, Barry, yes, John, yes Steve, yes, motion passed.

Guests: There were no guests present

Public Comment There was no public for comment.

Communications:

- 1) FCC regarding an application from AT&T to replace and add antennas to the tower at Mt. Horace Greeley.
- 2) Ontonagon REA regarding the placement of collector poles

New Business

Brought down from Communications.

The letter from the FCC was placed on file as there will not be an increase to the footprint of the tower or their building.

The letter from REA was discussed. If the poles are placed in the right of way, no permit is required. If they will be placing a pole on private property, a permit will be required, and due to a conflict of interest with Ann, it will be processed by Bill Eddy.

Unfinished Business

The actions from the October meeting regarding the land use map was reviewed and discussed. The public hearing was held on October 27, and public comment taken, changes as requested by Gina have and others are to be incorporated. **M/S Parsons/LaMotte** to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners the adoption of the future land use map as the new zoning map. Roll Call Vote John, yes, Jim LaMotte, yes, Barry, yes, Steve, yes, Dan yes, Motion passed Ann will email the changes out for review and verification.

Regarding the new direction from Board of Commissioners – Ann provided an update as to the response to the letters which were mailed to the townships late last year. At the direction of the County Board of Commissioners another letter is being mailed to the townships, inquiring about their desired participation in local zoning vs county wide zoning.

**M/S Parsons/LaMotte/Steck/Koljonen/Siira WE, the Planning Commission recommends zoning be maintained, in some form, the same or new. Zoning should not be eliminated. We cannot turn our back on zoning, or it will be a free for all. Roll call vote, Parsons, yea, LaMotte, yea, Steck, yea, Koljonen, yea, Siira, yea. Motion passed all in favor.**

The Chair followed up with, “**A change must come, from the current ordinance. Whether it is at the township level or stays at the county. This ordinance is difficult. In accordance with section 20.14, we shall within two years and not more than five, examine all the provisions of this ordinance and... We have been making changes since 2010, at the rate we can read, review, and rewrite, it will be years before we are done, then it is time to start again. It is my recommendation we meet with professionals, to provide direction. Maybe we can set aside money for a new ordinance to be written. This one is already fifteen years old; it was too unwieldy when it was adopted in 2006.**”

Parsons and Koljonen will assist in looking for potential grants that may be used on a future ordinance. Ann reminded the Commission Brad Neuman and Jerry Wuorenmaa have volunteered to facilitate or do a presentation. She will check with them about possible grants and their availability to zoom for the March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Steve gave the report from the ZBA, Moyryla variance was approved on December 1<sup>st</sup> and Burgers variance was approved on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Borlee will reschedule for an in person public hearing.

The Zoning Administrator’s Report was presented. Ann will present her annual report to the Board of Commissioners and include the concerns of the Planning Commission. She will be working on the Capital Improvement Plan at the department level and it will become an agenda item. She reported it is time again to review the Master Plan with the townships, make recommended changes and hold a public hearing sometime in 2022.

Steck made a nomination for Parsons as Chair and Koljonen as Vice Chair was presented. There being no further nominations, they were closed, and one ballot was cast. Roll Call Steck, yes, Parsons, yes, Koljonen, yes, LaMotte, yes, Siira, yes. Thank you John and Barry for your continued leadership.

Final Public Comments - none

Commission Final Comments -- it’s good to see everybody’s mug.

Next Meeting February 16, 4:00 PM via zoom.

M/S Parsons/Koljonen to adjourn at 5:00