

Keweenaw County Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2009

Keweenaw County Courthouse

Chairman Jon Soper called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

Roll call

Present: Jon Soper, Richard Schaefer, John Parsons, Don Keith, Joan Nelson, Jim Huovinen

Absent: Deneen Connell (illness), Jay Piquette, Tom O'Callaghan

Agenda: Approved without objection.

Minutes: March 24, 2009 meeting approved without objection

Unfinished Business: ***[Planning Commission abbreviated as PC]***

- PC reorganization and election of officers held in abeyance. Commissioner Keith stressed the need to achieve a quorum with at least five members in attendance. The current PC will attempt to recruit two additional members for a total of nine. A correction was made to committee member Parson's E-mail address which now is: J.Parsons@wildblue.net
- Prosecuting Attorney Donna L. Jaaskelainen, an invited guest, answered questions about the By-Laws of the Keweenaw Planning Commission, adopted April, 1962, with proposed changes made by Chairman Soper. The adjusted changes will be discussed during the May meeting. Commissioner Keith will introduce a resolution at the May 20, 2009, County Commissioner meeting to re-authorize the PC to be in conformity with the new Michigan Planning and Enabling Act of September, 2008.
- Commissioner Keith presented information regarding the new Gratiot River County Park and the need for a permanent park management plan to be sent to the DNR. He requested assistance from the PC to write this plan. The PC took no action.
- Discussion occurred on the duties of the PC, Section 18.4.1 (D) of the Keweenaw County Zoning Ordinance, and geographical representation of the townships/villages (as feasible) as PC members.
- The PC budget process was discussed along with the method for paying bills charged to the commission.
- Two up-coming education classes were reviewed.
- Member Huovinen suggested inviting Michigan Tech Professor Dr. Leonard Bohmann to a planning meeting to discuss Mount Horace Greeley's potential for Keweenaw County. Bohmann is a member of the Power and Energy Research Center at MTU, which includes renewable energy(wind and photovoltaic) and grid integration/interfaces. Chairman Soper suggested also including Dr. Bruce Mork, Chairman of Electrical and Computer Engineering Dept. at MTU. After discussion, Schafer, also on the Economic Development Committee, suggested a possible EDC/Planning joint meeting to hear the MTU presentation. Schafer will poll EDC members with the goal of a joint meeting on June 3, 2009.

New Business: None

Zoning Administrator's Report:

- Joan Nelson summarized her monthly activities dealing with zoning, in particular, a case pending in Grant Township.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Jim Huovinen