

NOTICE OF MEETING  
OF THE ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION  
TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE MEAD ROD & GUN CLUB  
FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS  
RELATING TO A RELOCATED PISTOL RANGE, INCLUDING BERMS, PLANTINGS,  
THE RELOCATED PISTOL RANGE, AND A PISTOL RANGE STRUCTURE

A meeting of the Escanaba Township Planning Commission has been scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Escanaba Township Hall located at 4618 County 416 20th Road, Gladstone, Michigan 49837.

The purpose of the meeting will be to consider an application for a conditional use permit filed by the Mead Rod & Gun Club to construct improvements relating to a relocated pistol range, including berms, plantings, the relocated pistol range and a new pistol range structure.

Under Michigan's Sport Shooting Recreation Act, MCL 691.1541, et seq ("the SSRA"), the Township has no authority to prohibit sport shooting activities including related structures, as defined in the Escanaba Township Zoning Ordinance ("the ETZO"), which were in existence at the time of the last amendment to that Act, which occurred in July 5, 1994. With the exception of the improvements identified in the site plan, the Township has no authority to prohibit such activities. In addition, with the exception of the improvements, the sport shooting activities of the Mead Rod & Gun Club are a legal, pre-existing non-conforming use protected under Michigan law.

The application from the Mead Rod & Gun Club is submitted subject to an express reservation of its rights to assert that the proposed improvements are expressly authorized under the SSRA should the conditional use permit or the variance request, or both, be denied

Under the ETZO, a gun range is a permitted conditional use in the Resource Production district where the Mead Rod & Gun Club is located, however, under the ETZO, such a sport shooting range must be located on a parcel of at least 40 acres. The gun range in question sits on less than 40 acres. As a result, issuance of the conditional use permit, if approved by the Planning Commission, will be expressly conditioned on the applicant securing a dimensional variance from the Escanaba Township Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the 40-acre minimum lot size requirement.

The site plan submitted relative to the planned improvements has been approved by the Zoning Administrator, conditioned on the issuance of a conditional use permit and the granting of a variance by the Zoning Board of Appeals, for the reasons stated above. It also mandates that the Zoning Administrator inspect the premises for compliance with all specifications of the approved site plan twelve months after construction is complete.

Copies of the proposed Application and Site Plan and current ETZO are available on the Escanaba Township website, and at the Township Hall. They can be purchased or reviewed at the Escanaba Township Hall office during normal business hours by contacting the Township Clerk at 906-789-9050 for an appointment. Copies of the proposed Application and Site Plan and current ETZO are also available for review online at the Escanaba Township website (<https://www.escanabatownship.org>).

Interested persons are urged to attend and provide testimony or documents in support of or in opposition to the proposed amendments, or related issues.

Written public comments are welcome at the public hearing and will be accepted through the end of the public hearing. Written comments may be hand delivered, mailed, or electronically delivered to the Escanaba Township Clerk at the Township Hall address listed above, or at her e-mail address, [beauchampp@yahoo.com](mailto:beauchampp@yahoo.com) any time before the start of the January 6, 2020 meeting.

If you are planning on attending and require any special assistance to do so, please notify the Escanaba Township Clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting. Such notification may be in person at the Township Hall during regular business hours, by a telephone call to the Township Clerk, 906-789-9050, or by e-mailing such notifications to the Escanaba Township Clerk at [beauchampp@yahoo.com](mailto:beauchampp@yahoo.com).

Respectfully submitted,

Escanaba Township Planning Commission

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