

**ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2020 7:30 PM HELD TELEPHONICALLY**

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairperson, Cliff Barron at 7:30 PM

Mr. Barron led by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

Verbal Roll call taken: Theresa Chenier, Tom Rymkos, Dean VanLoon, Kim Knauf-Wykcoff, Ray Hughes, Norm Fleury, Cliff Barron. All members present.

Cliff B. announced the first order of business needs to be to vote in a Chairperson through nomination then verbal vote process. He asked if there are any nominations?

Kim K nominated Dean VanLoon for Planning Commission Chairperson.

Cliff B. asked if there were any other nominations. No other nominations were voiced.

Roll call vote taken by C. Barron: Cliff YES T. Chenier YES T. Rymkos YES K.Knauf-Wykcoff YES D. VanLoon OBSTAINED R. Hughes YES N. Fleury YES. By unanimous YES votes, Mr. Dean VanLoon has accepted the position of Escanaba Township Planning Commission Chairperson.

Cliff B announced Dean VanLoon is now the Chair. At 7:34 Dean thanked the members for their vote of confidence and proceeding to conduct the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS; NONE Closed public Comments at 7:35

Motion to approve Agenda was brought up. Cliff suggests bylaws as the first step of order. Tom R made motion to approve Agenda with bylaws under new business, Cliff B second. Cliff YES Theresa YES Tom YES Kim YES Ray YES Dean YES Norm YES. Agenda approved.

Motion to approve Aug 3, 2020 minutes with change to 13 days not 30 days, after publication for a decision to go into effect. Motion to accept Aug 3,2020 minutes with mentioned change by Kim K. Second Theresa C. Vote: Cliff YES Theresa YES Tom YES Kim YES Dean YES Ray YES Norm YES. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Sept 10, 2020 minutes as printed made by Theresa C. Second Kim K. Vote: Cliff YES Theresa YES Tom YES Kim YES Dean YES Ray YES Norm YES Motion passed.

Motion to approve Sept 22, 2020 minutes as printed made by Tom R. Second by Norm. Vote: Cliff NO (on grounds he felt meeting was held illegally). Theresa YES Tom YES Kim YES Ray YES Norm NO Dean YES. 5 YES 2 NO. Motion passes.

Zoning Board of Appeals hearing Updates given by Secretary, Cathy Culliton. August 31, 2020 William Burdick # 20-1 was granted permit to construct detached garage.

September 28, 2020 Larry Begalle #20-2 was not granted permit to construct a stand alone garage in front of existing building. There is not a residence on the property.

Ray Added that LaBumbard may go back to court. Dean will follow up for update.

Member comments: Theresa gave an update on meeting guidelines per MTA. There are only two types of meetings. Regular meeting and Special Meeting. Special meetings are not on the schedule and are called as needed or for a pressing issue. There are no work sessions. OMA requires public participation and minutes recorded. Cliff brought up how often the guidelines are changing pertaining to requirements to meet in public. Meetings are much better and productive when we can meet in person. Theresa agreed meetings work much better in person, but at this time in our specific area Covid 19 is sky high. We need to protect our citizens and commission members. She plans to approach the Board to discuss the option of ZOOM meetings using the internet and phones. Emily DeSalvo of City of Escanaba Planning Commission would be willing to help us with virtual meeting. ZOOM cost is approx. \$200 for a year. Kim and Dean both also have used ZOOM for meetings and say it is successful. Norm questioned the potential for law suits. He prefers in person meetings also. Tom said we don't have much choice. Virus numbers are going up and we should not meet. Ray too feels in person is best but if we can't meet in person, ZOOM would be better than phone. He inquired if we can use ZOOM for both Planning Commission and Board meetings.

Theresa has prepared the Mission Statement for the PC. Copies will be distributed soon. Modifying the bylaws to conform with the Planning Commission Ordinance was discussed briefly at Sept 22, 2020 meeting. Some changes, but not limited to: were recognizing there is to be 7 members on the PC. Members tonight discussed bylaws should state procedure to fill vacancies and operating with a quorum. Cliff, Tom and Kim all voiced they feel members should be qualifying electors of the township. Tom will address term of office with the Board. Norm would like to see it brought up at the Board budget meeting that PC are paid 1 hour and most meetings go over that. Next meeting discussion will start with Article VI Hearings. Kim will research the verbiage. Cliff reminded everyone we were ordered by the board to work on AdHoc. Time has been a problem. Dean said he understands the concern. We need to get commission in order first. Hopefully there will be a vote on bylaws at next meeting. Dean asked members if they are willing to continue education. Kim and Theresa have both been taking webinars and classed with MTA. Cliff and Ray both said they are ok with the continuing education. Norm No Response, (*appears to have lost connection*). Ray asked if Dean will be able to stay on ZBA and be PC Chairman. Dean confirmed he could.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Theresa Norton congratulated Mr. VanLoon and thanked PC.

Motion to adjourn at 9:45pm by Ray. Second by Kim. Vote: Cliff YES Theresa YES Tom Yes Kim YES Ray Yes Norm (*appears to have lost connection*) Motion passed.

Dean Thanked everyone for a good meeting and looks forward to working for the community.

Next meeting of the Escanaba Township Planning Commission is scheduled for Monday November 2, 2020 7:30 PM.

Escanaba Township Planning Commission minutes by Cathy Culliton, Secretary.