

OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES January 8, 2010

Randy Stults, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Otsego Lake Township Planning Commission to order at 7:03 pm. The meeting opened with roll call.

Planning Commission members present: Margaret Black, Tim Baker, Erma Backenstose, Russell Gregg, Susan LaVanway and Randy Stults.

Absent: Nora Corfis

A quorum was present.

Following the roll call, the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Public Hearings: There was no public hearing.

Persons Requested by the Commission to Attend the Meeting: None

Housekeeping Business:

Planning Commission Report to the Board:
January 21, 2010 – Margaret Black

The next meeting of the Otsego Lake Township Planning Commission will be held February 4, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Otsego Lake Township Hall.

2010 Meeting Schedule: Erma Backenstose moved that the proposed Otsego Lake Township Planning Commission 2010 Meeting Date Schedule be adopted and posted on the Public Notice Bulletin board at the Township Hall. Tim Baker supported the motion which passed by a voice vote.

Rules of Operation: Susan LaVanway moved that the Otsego Lake Township Planning Commission adopt the Rules of Operation used in 2009, as corrected, as the Rules of Operation for 2010. They are identified as follows:

Otsego Lake Township Planning Commission Rules for Conducting Meetings and Special Meeting dated January 2010.

Otsego Lake Township Planning Commission Rules for Conducting Public Hearings Required for an Applicant dated January 2010.

Otsego Lake Township Planning Commission rules for Conducting Public Hearings required by Planning Commission dated January 2010.

A copy of the rules will be attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting. Russell Gregg supported the motion which passed by a voice vote.

Public Comments, Communications Concerning Items Not on the Agenda and Additions to the Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Stults asked for the approval of the Otsego Lake Township Planning Commission Minutes dated December 4, 2009. Susan LaVanway moved the minutes be accepted as printed. Erma Backenstose supported the motion which passed by a voice vote with Tim Baker abstaining.

Unfinished Business and Reports:

Otsego County Planning commission Activities: Randy Stults reported on the following County Commission Planning Activities:

1. Wind Turbine Generator proposed changes to county ordinance – the townships will give comments back to the County for the February meeting.
2. Northern Processing LLC – No progress.
3. Changing Message Signs – Approved and recommended to County Commissioners to adopt. Includes Change no more than one time per minute and light intensity limits.

Township Board Representative Report

1. Friends of Waters started and will be starting activities in community very soon.
2. Lots next door to township hall – Cecelia Schotte wants to sell lots with her house, not separate.
3. Discussion about the meeting held previous week concerning future county zoning administration.

Reports from Planning Commission Members

Erma Backenstose brought up more points concerning the future county zoning administration issue with discussion by all.

2009 Annual Report to the Township Board. The Otsego Lake Township Planning Commission reviewed the 2009 Annual Report to the Township Board and made one minor correction on page 3. Tim Baker made a motion to approve the 2009 Annual Report to the Township Board as corrected and present it to the Otsego Lake Township board on Thursday, January 21, 2010. Erma Backenstose supported the motion and it passed with a voice vote.

Discussion on training: There is an 4 – 9pm class put on by the Association of Planning in Petoskey on February 25th. Randy Stults expressed interest in attending.

There is an evening class on ZBA: Roles and Responsibilities put on by MTA at Treetops in Gaylord on March 10th. Margaret Black and Susan LaVanway expressed interest in attending.

Suspend Rules to move to New Business and return to Unfinished business if time allows.

New Business

Review and recommendation of Article 23 – ZBA to the County Planning Commission. Discussion by all concerning changes. County planning commission endeavored to clarify and meet five criteria. It is well written. Phil Alexander chaired the committee that wrote the changes. Russell Gregg made a motion to advise the Otsego County Planning Commission of our review and state that this is an excellent revision. Susan LaVanway supported the motion and it passed with a voice vote. Randy Stults will write the letter to the County Planning Commission.

Election of Officers

Secretary – Nomination of Nora Corfis by Margaret Black. Tim Baker made motion to close nominations. Erma Backenstose supported the motion and it passed with a voice vote.

Chairperson – Nomination of Randy Stults by Tim Baker. Tim Baker made motion to close nominations. Russell Gregg supported the motion and it passed with a voice vote.

Vice-Chairperson – Nomination of Margaret Black by Susan LaVanway. Russell Gregg made motion to close nominations. Tim Baker supported the motion and it passed with a voice vote.

Chairperson Stults called for acclamation acceptance of all nominations since there was no opposition for any position. All agreed.

Otsego County Zoning Administration issue: Considerable more discussion concerning this issue and how it affects Otsego Lake Township, like:

We look to the Otsego Lake Township Board for guidance. If changes are made, the Bylaws would have to be revised and an ordinance adopted for a township P.C.

The current system provides a more professional and full time staff.

An sample ordinance needs to be found by February to be used as a guide. Tim Baker agreed to find a draft sample from MTA.

Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda: There was no public participation for items not on the agenda.

Adjournment: Chairperson Stults adjourned the meeting at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Black

Substituting for Nora Corfis as Secretary