

**Clearwater Township**  
Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting of November 7, 2016  
As approved December 5, 2016

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:**

Chair Parzych called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m., and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call of Members and Recognition of Visitors:**

Commissioners present: Backers, Eldridge, Fields, Parzych, Von See.

Township officials: Zoning Administrator Molby

Public: Connie Molby, Bruce Belanger

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion** by Backers, second by Von See, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Call for Disclosure of Conflicts of Interests:**

Chair calls for commissioners to disclose any real or potential conflicts of interests. There were none.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion** by Backers, second by Von See, to accept the minutes of October 3, 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

**Public Comment for Matters Not on the Agenda:**

Bruce Belanger asked about any progress on the question of minimum dwelling space. He reported that the Kankaska Planning Commission has a document removing all square footage requirements from dwellings; that this has not been incorporated into the county ordinance; and that the building department is unaware of the changes.

Our planning commission has received no information from the county on the matter, although we have asked for it several times, according to Chair Parzych. Commissioner Backers will follow up directly with the Board of Commissioners.

**Comments from Commissioners for Matters Not on the Agenda:**

Commissioner Backers commented that the Kankaska Republican Party voted to place a full page ad of their endorsements for every position up for election except the township offices.

Zoning complaint form Chair Parzych and Zoning Administrator Molby voiced their concerns about the need for contact information on the form. It was stressed that any zoning complaint requires a written form not a phone call. Molby stressed the point that he has to secure an administrative search warrant before going onto private property, otherwise his action would constitute trespass. Parzych and Molby will determine what changes are needed to the complaint form.

**Ongoing Permanent Business:**

There has been some recent legislative action with regard to medical marijuana. Secretary Fields has downloaded the pertinent documents as pdf files to be available to the members of the planning commission.

**Report of Township Representative:**

Commissioner and Township Clerk Eldridge distributed copies of the memo from Attorney Bryan Graham regarding current medical marijuana legislation.

The township board is researching the requirements for closing the Glade Valley Bridge to vehicular traffic. There continue to be issues with trucks over the weight limit traveling across it. A trail-cam is being put up to monitor the bridge traffic.

The Kalkaska County Road Commission and possibly the Grand Traverse County Road Commission will join in the efforts to repair Baggs Road. This will reduce the financial burden on Clearwater Township.

**Report of ZBA Representative:**

Commissioner Fields distributed a document from the Zoning Board of Appeals with proposed changes to the language in Articles IV and IX pertaining to setback distances to protect waterline shores. The commissioners will study the document and take the suggestions under consideration. Any changes will affect the Master Plan and the Zoning Ordinance.

**Report of Zoning Administrator:**

Report from ZA Molby distributed his report, which is hereby incorporated into the record by reference, and a copy of which is attached to the permanent copy of these minutes as [Att A]. There was discussion of amending the Zoning Ordinance to impose a penalty for failure to obtain a land use permit. Land use permits are free in Clearwater Township, yet some people still fail to secure a permit before commencing a project. We will seek the support of the Township Board before proceeding with this idea.

**New Business** None at this time.

**Closing Public Comment:** Noe at this time.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion** by Fields, second by Von See, to adjourn. Adjournment at 7:35 p.m..

**Next Meeting: December 5, 2016**

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Norris Fields  
Secretary