

# Baraga Township Planning Commission - NOTES

Work Session for Zoning Ordinance Update – March 30, 2026, 5:00 PM

Baraga Township Hall, 13919 M-38, Baraga, MI 49908

1. Work session called to order at 5:03 PM by Chairperson Nick Lozier.
2. Roll Call: Present - Nick Lozier, Bonnie Dompier, Dianne Koskinen. Absent – Jerry Dompier, Dale Parkila. Chairperson Nick Lozier declares that a quorum is present. Three members of the public were in attendance.
3. Work Session - The Planning Commission reviewed the WUPPDR comments and the recommendations made by Jason McCarthy of Northwoods Planning & Zoning Services. The Planning Commission will forward the following decisions to Northwoods Planning & Zoning Services for changes:

Accept/Incorporate:

- Page 37: “Fed/state” to “public” – make recommended changes
- Page 39: Define B, E, F in the dimensional table – change to include definitions, possibly include a legend
- Page 42: Define “seasonal” and “year-round” – make recommended changes but strike “including winter conditions” to avoid redundancy
- Page 45: Remove “new” from cluster development description – make recommended changes
- Page 124: Unify vacation rental / short-term rental terminology – make recommended changes

Accept with Revision/Policy Decision(s):

- Page 29: Remove 4-bedroom cap from STR definition – make recommended changes with occupancy limits to be addressed at a later date if necessary
- Page 34: Clarify private swimming pools are accessory only – make recommended changes
- Page 44: Modernize Accessory Housing Unit section – the Planning Commission would like more guidance before finalizing revisions, specifically concerns requiring “family members” and prohibiting use as a short-term rental
  - Remove/define “special needs” – make recommended changes
  - Remove “temporary” – make recommended changes
  - Consider allowing detached units – allow detached units
  - Prohibit STR use – concerns about prohibiting STR use

- Page 86: Add broader downward-facing lighting standard – make recommended changes
- Page 125: Review and likely remove redundant STR item – make recommended changes

Required Legal Review Required Before Final Adoption:

- Page 49: Renewable energy / solar preemption – make recommended changes pending legal review
- Page 107: “Solar Energy Systems (greater than 10k)” in Article 15 – make recommended changes pending legal review, but change 10k to 10kW
- Page 134: Tourist directional sign / content neutrality – make recommended changes pending legal review but remove “Tourist”. The Planning Commission would like more guidance regarding content-based categories, possibly including motion signage and 3D signage, and questions if these categories pertain to both permanent and temporary signage (for example, political or real estate purposes).

Comments: Moving forward, the Planning Commission understands the process to be that the revisions are made, the draft is presented for legal review and changes are made if necessary, the Planning Commission reviews the revised draft, a public hearing is held with a minimum 15 day notice and changes are made if necessary, the finalized draft is presented to the Baraga Township Board for approval.

4. Public Comment: None

5. Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn by Dianne Koskinen supported by Bonnie Dompier at 6:14 PM.

i. Ayes: all in favor

Nays: none

The next regular meeting of the Baraga Township Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM.