

Michigamme Township

Planning Commission

Minutes of January 21, 2021

Present: Ruth Starr, Janice Anderson, Robert DellAngelo (Zoning Administrator), Joel Johnson (via Zoom), Emma Murphy, Julia Leake

Absent: None

Guests: Greg Murphy, Don DeRoche (via Zoom)

Call to Order: 5:30 pm

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Approval of Agenda: Motion to Approve: Janice Anderson, Second: Emma Murphy, Motion passes.
- III. Approval of Minutes of December 21, 2020. Motion to Approve: Emma Murphy, Second: Ruth Starr, Motion passes.

IV. Old Business

- A. Review of Master Plan – Members need to read the document before the next meeting, concentrating especially on Goals and Objectives
- B. Public Hearing on Recreation Plan – January 26, 2021, will be conducted via Zoom
 1. All members of the Planning Commission are encouraged to attend
 2. Applications for grants from State of Michigan will be available 1/25/2021
- C. Feedback from DDA on Zoning Ordinance Review
 1. Update from Julia Leake on changes to signage ordinances
- D. RRC Update – Bob Dellangelo is working to integrate the Master Plan and the Zoning Ordinances
- E. Update on Zoning Ordinance Enforcement Issue – After property owner was cited, Court contacted Township Attorney, Roger Zappa regarding violation of horse boarding within the township to inform him of a future court hearing.

V. New Business

- A. Zoning Question Regarding Easement
 1. Nate Smith needs to know how close to easement is construction of a garage allowed.
 2. Property owner can't build within the easement, but can build right up to it.
 3. Easement is 66 ft. in width

B. Planning Commission reviewed the color-coded Zoning Map

C. New Zoning Administrator – two applications have been received.

VI. Correspondence: None

VII. Public Comment: None

Adjournment: 6:35 pm

Next Meeting: February 18, 2021, 5:30 pm

Reminder of CIP Scoring: February 24, 2021, 9:00 am

Michigamme Township

Planning Commission

Minutes of February 18, 2021

Present: Ruth Starr, Janice Anderson, Robert DellAngelo (Zoning Administrator), Joel Johnson (via Zoom), Emma Murphy, Julia Leake

Absent: None

Guests: Greg Murphy

Call to Order: 5:33 pm

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Approval of Amended Agenda: Motion to Approve: Emma Murphy, Second: Ruth Starr, Motion passes.
- III. Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2021. Motion to Approve: Emma Murphy, Second: Ruth Starr, Motion passes.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Review of Master Plan
 1. Motion to approve Master Plan and submit it to Ryan Soucy and Chris Germain for examination and recommendations: Jan Anderson, Second; Emma Murphy, Motion passes.
 - B. Changes to Zoning Regarding Small Animals
 1. Possible text for ordinance regarding small animals such as chickens and ducks distributed to members, who are to read and discuss at the next meeting.
 2. Some residents currently are in violation of township ordinances by having these animals.
 - C. Feedback from DDA on Zoning Ordinance Review
 1. Update from Julia Leake on changes to signage ordinances
 2. Recommendations for changes by DDA will be acted upon by Planning Commission at March meeting.
 - D. RRC Update – Revision includes two levels of certification: Essential and Certified
 1. Certified is most desired, but it harder to attain
 2. Motion to accept the recommendation of RRC advisors to focus on essential expectations for certification as opposed to certified expectations: Julia Leake, Second: Jan Anderson, Motion passes.

3. It is always possible to increase certification at the next level.

E. Progress Report on Legislative Letter

1. Julia and Jan will review the proposed legislation regarding Vacation Home Rentals that didn't make it out of committee.
2. A letter will be sent to Representative Cambensy and Senator McBroom outlining our concerns regarding such legislation of it should be forwarded again.

F. Marquette County Road Commission Letter

1. A letter regarding the gazebo and right-of-way has been received from the Marquette County Road Commission
2. Motion to acknowledge receipt of the letter and to forward the letter to the Michigamme Township Board: Jan Anderson, Second: Emma Murphy, Motion passes.

G. Planning Commission to receive a corrected copy of color-coded zoning map.

H. High Speed Internet Update – Within the next 5 years Michigamme Township should receive high speed internet through fiberoptic cables via a Consortium of AEG and Heron Broadband Inc

V. New Business

A. Grant Submission to the DNR for Tennis and Basketball Court Resurfacing

1. Public Hearing on grant details to occur before the next Township Board meeting.
2. Public announcement of hearing to be submitted to newspaper.
3. Michigamme Township Board needs to approve the grant submission before it is turned in.
4. Robert DellAngelo and Jan Anderson will work on writing the grant.

B. Planning Functions Going Forward

1. RRC and Revision of Zoning/Master Plan likely to take longer than expected.
2. Robert DellAngelo wishes to be done.
3. New Zoning Administrator and Planner need to be hired.

C. Riparian Rights

1. Non-resident of Michigamme Township wishing to anchor a 25-foot sailboat offshore.
2. Problems with Riparian Rights----not legal to do it.

D. New Zoning Permits – James DesRocher requests permission for land split

1. Motion to grant permission with the condition that the lake lot is acknowledged to be unbuildable: Jan Anderson, Second: Emma Murphy, Motion passes.

VI. Correspondence: None

VII. Public Comment: None

Adjournment: 6:50 pm

Next Meeting: March 11, 2021 a 5:30 pm

Reminder of CIP Scoring: February 24, 2021, 9:00 am

Michigamme Township

Planning Commission

Minutes of April 15, 2021

Present: Ruth Starr, Janice Anderson, Emma Murphy, Joel Johnson (via Zoom), Julia Leake, Jason McCarthy (Zoning Administrator)

Absent: None

I. Opening

A. Call to Order: 6:33 pm

B. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve: Julia Leake, Second: Joel Johnson, Motion passes.

C. Approval of Minutes of 2/18/21: Motion to Approve: Ruth Starr, Second: Joel Johnson, Motion passes.

II. Old Business

A. Changes to Zoning Regarding Small Animals

1. General consensus: No Ordinance needed unless a problem exists.
2. Jason McCarthy will bring document with better terminology to the next meeting.
3. No action. Tabled until next meeting.

B. Action on Sign Ordinance: None

C. Acceptance of Minutes of CIP Scoring Meeting

1. Motion to Approve: Jan Anderson, Second: Joel Johnson, Motion passes.

D. Follow-up re: Letter to McBroom/Cambensy

1. In the letter Michigamme Township Planning Commission stated their opposition to:
 - a. Further taxation of VHRs in order to fund convention centers or tourism
 - b. The establishment of a VHR database and bureaucracy to serve it.
 - c. The removal of VHRs from local zoning ordinances

E. Update on Submission of Grant to Resurface Tennis and Basketball Courts

1. Grants have been submitted for a Passport Grant and a Legacy Grant

2. Contact person at State of Michigan identified areas where more information is needed. Areas revised and Passport Grant resubmitted.
3. Final submission with corrections May 15, 2021

III. New Business

A. Role of Zoning Administrator vs Planning Commission

1. If application is compliant, Zoning Administrator can approve it without Zoning Commission. A copy of each approved zoning application should be brought to next Zoning Commission meeting.
2. Conditional Uses must be approved by the Zoning Commission.

B. Blight Tour

1. Blight Tour will be on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 9:00 am with William Seppanen, Janice Anderson, and Jason McCarthy attending.
2. Future Blight Tours will not require all members of the Zoning Commission to be present. Rather, only one of us needed, and we will take turns to accompany William Seppanen and Jason McCarthy.

C. Revision of Zoning Ordinances

1. It is recommended that Jason McCarthy work together with Bob DellAngelo to update language in Zoning Ordinances
2. It was recommended by Julia Leake that it is not advisable for the entire revised Zoning Ordinance document to be sent to the Michigan Township Board all at once. Rather, that sections that have been completed be sent to the Township Board as they are completed. This would allow for board members to thoroughly read and understand the zoning ordinance revisions.

D. Discuss Implementation of Master Plan (once approved)

1. Jan Anderson suggested that a portion of each Zoning Commission meeting be devoted to discussion and brainstorming one section of the Master Plan.
2. A checklist should be developed to determine which of the objectives have been met.

E. New Zoning Permits

1. Fritz and Ramona Curth, 208 Brown Road, Screen Porch, 52-09-328-017-00
2. Nate Smith, 106 Green Road, Deck, 52-09-327-005-00

3. Nate Smith, 106 Green Road, fence, 52-09-327-005-00

IV. Correspondence

A. Letter to be sent to James Brennan, Republic Township regarding VHRs

V. Public Comment – None

Adjournment: 7:59 pm

Next meeting: May 13, 2021, 6:30 pm

Michigamme Township

Planning Commission

Minutes of May 13, 2021

Present: Ruth Starr, Janice Anderson, Joel Johnson (via Zoom), Julia Leake

Absent: Emma Murphy, Jason McCarthy (Zoning Administrator)

Guest: Don DeRoche

Call to Order: 6:36 pm

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Approval of Agenda: Motion to Approve: Joel Johnson, Second: Ruth Starr, Motion passes.
- III. Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2021. Motion to Approve: Joel Johnson, Second: Julia Leake, Motion passes.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Changes to Zoning Regarding Small Animals
 1. No action. Examples of small animal ordinances from similar small communities will be brought to the next meeting.
 - B. Feedback from DDA on Zoning Ordinance Review regarding Signs
 1. No action
 2. DDA will have finished suggestions for changes before the next Planning Commission meeting.
 - C. Letter to Republic Township re: VRBOs
 1. Republic Township Supervisor called William Seppanen and told him they were not interested in regulation of VRBOs.
 2. Michigamme Township Planning Commission is disappointed in the response and will resubmit a letter to the entire Republic Township Board after agreement by William Seppanen expressing their concerns.
 3. Members of the Township Board is reminded of House Bill 4722 that would prohibit townships from regulating short-term rentals and are urged to contact their legislators to express their opposition to this bill.
 - D. Review of Zoning Ordinances
 1. Zoning Administrator is responsible for rewriting zoning ordinances.
 2. Discussion about how to submit zoning changes to the board:

- a. As sections are approved by the Planning Commission they are submitted to the board for review.
- b. When zoning update is complete, committee requests Jason McCarthy to present a summary of the changes to the board so they can ask specific questions about them.
- c. A public hearing is required before the Michigamme Township Board can approve the changes in zoning.

E. Grant Submission to the DNR for Tennis and Basketball Court Resurfacing

1. Changes in the grant application have been made to make is ADA accessible.
2. Grant has been resubmitted by the deadline of May 15, 2021

V. New Business

A. Blight Tour – May 15, 2021, at 9:00 am

B. New Zoning Permits Issued

1. Charles P. Anderson and Corbin S. Lutz, 219 Main St. , garage (52-09-500-035-00)
2. Nicole Haskett, 134 Brown Road, Shed, (52-09-327-013-00)

VI. Correspondence:

A. Letter from Emma Murphy informing us of her resignation from the Planning Commission

1. Julia Leake moved to accept Emma’s resignation with regret, Second: Ruth Starr, passes.
2. Letter from Joel Johnson wishing to leave the Planning Commission- No action, since he is willing to remain for a few months.

VII. Public Comment: Don DeRoche: Concerns about blight and unlicensed dogs.

Adjournment: 8:51 pm

Next Meeting: June 10, 2021, 6:00 pm

Michigamme Township

Planning Commission

Minutes of June 10, 2021

Present: Ruth Starr, Janice Anderson, Via Zoom: Joel Johnson, Jason McCarthy (Zoning Administrator)

Absent: Julia Leake

Guest: Don DeRoche, David Niemi, Gina Niemi, Marcia Schiltz

Call to Order: 6:08 pm

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda: Motion to Approve: Ruth Starr, Second: Joel Johnson, Motion passes.

III. Approval of Minutes of May 13, 2021: Motion to Approve: Joel Johnson, Second: Ruth Starr, Motion passes.

IV. Old Business

A. Changes to Zoning Regarding Small Animals- Action deferred.

B. Feedback from DDA on Zoning Ordinance Review regarding Signs- Action deferred

C. Blight Tour

1. Letters not yet sent – unable to schedule recheck tour.

V. New Business

A. Building without Zoning Compliance Permits

1. Site visitation needed

2. Planning Commission to consider revising Fee Schedule for Zoning with penalty for not obtaining a permit prior to construction.

B. Motion to cease Zoom meetings: Ruth Starr, failure to receive a second, motion fails.

C. CUPPAD announcement of Broadband Access meeting on June 16, 2021

1. William Seppanen, Julia Leake, and Jan Anderson will attend

New Zoning Permits Issued

1. Donald Leake – 270 Pink Road, Garage addition (52-09-320-008-50)

VI. Correspondence: None

VII. Comments from Zoning Administrator: None

VIII. Public Comment

1. Don DeRoche – Concern about zoning enforcement (people building without zoning permits).

Adjournment: 6:35 pm

Next meeting: July 15, 2021, 5:30 pm

Michigamme Township
Planning Commission Minutes

July 15, 2021

Present: Ruth Starr, David Niemi, Terry McBride, Julia Leake, Janice Anderson

Absent: Jason McCarthy (Zoning Administrator)

Call to Order: 5:37 pm

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to Approve: Ruth Starr, Second: Dave Niemi, Motion Passes.

III. Approval of the Minutes of June 10, 2021

Motion to Approve with corrections: Julia Leake, Second: Ruth Starr, Motion passes.

IV. Old Business

A. Plan to Conduct Planning Commission meetings in person Motion: Ruth Starr, Second: Terry Mc Bride, motion passes.

B. Action on Sign Ordinance Changes – DDA is done with their work. Changes will be presented in written form at the next meeting.

C. Blight Tour – Recheck has not yet been scheduled. Properties with blight problems not originally identified during the first blight tour will be visited during the recheck.

1. William Seppanen will schedule a time when Jason McCarthy is available.

2. Dumpster Days – August 16 – 18 and 21st – those receiving blight warnings should be able to take advantage of this service.

D. Update on Highline Broadband Service

1. This is a 3 ½ year project to bring fiberoptic cable throughout the UP, and improve internet service to rural areas.

2. Work is already started in the Escanaba area, with Michigamme being the last area to be completed, due in part to the difficulty of working in our rocky terrain.

3. Pricing is expected to be competitive to other servers.

E. Update on Master Plan Revision

1. Bob DellAngelo is finished with his work. He wants to meet with the Planning Commission once we have all read the Master Plan and thought about it.
2. Meeting likely to be scheduled late in the fall – likely November or December.

F. Construction Without Permits – Deferred

Site visits not done at this point. No action.

G. Small Animal Ordinance Changes

1. Action deferred to next meeting after reviewing how other townships are handling this problem.

V. New Business

A. Changes in Fee Schedule for Zoning Compliance

1. Motion to increase the cost of a Zoning Permit from \$10.00 to \$25.00
2. For permits obtained after construction has begun, fees will double.
3. Motion to Approve these Changes: Ruth Starr, Second:Terry McBride, Passes.

B. Changes in Scheduling Planning Commission Meetings

1. Writing time ½ hour before formal meeting when needed.
2. Julia Leake willing to approve if all members come prepared.
3. All sessions are open to the public.
4. Motion to Approve: Julia Leake, Second: Ruth Starr, passes

C. Resignation

1. Resignation letter of Joel Johnson of May 12, 2021 was read
2. Planning Commission accepts Joel Johnson's resignation with regret
3. Motion to accept: Ruth Starr, Second: Terry McBride, Motion passes.

D. New Zoning Permits Issued- Compliant

1. Dan and Kelly Mead – Residential structure and accessory building,
(52-09-335-001-13) Blue Road (address not yet assigned)

VI. Correspondence

- A. Letter from State Senator Ed McBroom – re: proposed VRBO legislation

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Adjournment 7:20 pm

Next Meeting: August 12, 2021 5:30 pm

Michigamme Township

Planning Commission

Minutes of August 12, 2021

Present: Ruth Starr, Janice Anderson, David Niemi, Terry McBride, Julia Leake

Absent: Jason McCarthy (Zoning Administrator)

Call to Order: 6:17 pm

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda with Amendment (Remove Item V): Motion to Approve: Julia Leake, Second: Ruth Starr, Motion passes.

III. Approval of Minutes of 7/15/ 2021: Motion to Approve: Ruth Starr, Second: David Niemi, Motion passes.

IV. Old Business

A. Sign Ordinances

1. Julia Leake outlined the changes recommended by the DDA
2. Julia will present the proposed Sign Ordinance in written form at the next Planning Commission meeting.

B. Small (Non-Pet) Animal Ordinance

1. Jan Anderson will present Small Animal Ordinance language in written form at the next Planning Commission Meeting.

C. Blight

1. Blight recheck was done on August 9, 2021 by Jason McCarthy, Ruth Starr and William Seppanen
2. Letters sent to those properties not in compliance
3. Letter to Gordon and Sheila Schultz regarding need to clean up blight within 15 days. Recheck necessary.

V. New Business

A. Vacation Home Rentals

1. New license to Daniel Croney and Brandon Croney, 555 Cardinal Road
2. Reminders for license renewal to be sent to current Vacation Home license holders.

B. New Zoning Permits Issued

1. Thomas Edmark (52-09-330-061-00), 374/376 Red Road. Residential Addition.

2. Michael Brinker (52-09-600-031-00) 509 Red Road, Garage

3. Michigamme Township (52-09-500-067-00) 107 Barnum St., Garage/Storage Building

VI. Correspondence: None

VII. Public Comment - None

Adjournment: 7:37 pm

Next meeting: September 9, 5:30 pm

Michigamme Township
Planning Commission Minutes

September 9, 2021

Present: Ruth Starr, David Niemi, Terry McBride, Julia Leake, Janice Anderson

Absent: Jason McCarthy (Zoning Administrator)

Call to Order: 5:36 pm

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Approval of the Agenda - Motion to Approve: Ruth Starr, Second: John McBride, Motion Passes.
- III. Approval of the Minutes of August 8, 2021 - Motion to Approve with corrections: Julia Leake, Second: Ruth Starr, Motion passes.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Action on Sign Ordinance Changes
 1. Motion to Approve Sign Ordinance: Jan Anderson, Second: David Niemi, Motion passes.
 - B. Blight
 1. Property with cars parked in the roadway referred to the Marquette County Road Commission by Jason McCarthy
 2. Recheck needed for one property that received a warning letter during the summer.
 - C. Small Animal Ordinance
 1. Members of the Planning Commission reworked language for the Small Animal Ordinance
 2. Final approval and referral to the Michigamme Township Board in November.
- V. New Business
 - A. Use of Container Structures in Michigamme Township – Deferred to next meeting.
 - B. New Zoning Permits Issued
 1. Rachel Hautamaki, 126 Brown Road, (52-09-321-033-00) garage
 2. Adam and Rachel Simonsen, 541 Cardinal Road, (52-09-008-00) Residence

VI. Correspondence - None

VII. Public Comment- None

VIII. Adjournment 7:13 pm

Next Meeting: November 11, 2021, 5:30 pm

Michigamme Township

Planning Commission

Minutes of November 11, 2021

Present: Ruth Starr, Janice Anderson, David Niemi, Terry McBride, Julia Leake, Jason McCarthy (Zoning Administrator)

Guests: Don DeRoche

Call to Order: 5:38 pm

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda with Amendment: Motion to Approve: Leake, Second: McBride, Motion passes.

III. Approval of Minutes of 9/9/21: Motion to Approve: Leake, Second: Niemi, Motion passes.

IV. Old Business

A. Sign Ordinances

1. Jason McCarthy will clean up language to make ordinance more enforceable.
2. No action until final language is done. Public Hearing to be scheduled at that point.

B. Small (Non-Pet) Animal Ordinance

1. Jason McCarthy will improve language to make ordinance more enforceable.
2. No action until final language is done – Public Hearing to be scheduled at that point.

C. Blight

1. Blight recheck to be scheduled on Saturday, November 13, 2021 – Properties that have previously received a warning letter will be cited.
2. Car up on blocks in the ROW – Car still there - Photos taken, Marquette County Road Commission is dealing with this issue.
3. Chet DeRoche will take photos of blighted property near Arfelin Lake and forward photos to Planning Commission.

D. Vacation Home Rentals

1. List of all licensees was distributed to Planning Commission members
 - a. Motion to Approve Licensing Current Applicants: Niemi, Second: Starr, Motion passes.
 - b. License runs from January 1 – December 31, 2022.
2. Need to compare listings on Vacation Home Rental websites with those licensed.
3. HB4722 – Bill would eliminate local controls over Vacation Home Rentals.

- a. Has passed the House, not yet considered by the State Senate.
- b. Planning Commission members are encouraged to contact Senator McBroom.

E. MTA Training for Planning Commission

1. Terry McBride attended in person, Jan Anderson and Dave Niemi attended via Zoom.
2. Terry reports that sessions were beneficial, and all members should attend next year.
3. Terry provided each PC member with a folder of information from the meeting.

V. New Business

A. Container Structures for Residences

1. Planning Commission members do not want to see such structures in the township.
2. Jason McCarthy feels we do not need to change our ordinances, since these structures are controllable with current language. Only need to change it if we want to permit them.

B. Marijuana Ordinance

1. Michigamme Township Board has been approached by a grower for permission to build a growing facility in Michigamme Township.
2. This is in the early stages, and a public hearing will be conducted before a change in the current ordinance is made.
3. Dave Niemi presented a letter from Humboldt Township indicating that the marijuana grow facility has not benefitted the township as much as expected.

C. Informational Packets to Zoning Compliance Permit Applicants

1. Julia Leake introduced the idea that a packet of information be sent to all who apply for a Zoning Compliance Permit.
2. It was suggested by Jason McCarthy and agreed to by Planning Commission members that adding language to the Zoning Permit itself would accomplish the same thing.
3. Language on Zoning Compliance Permit will be changed.

VI. IV. New Zoning Permits Issued – None

VII. Comments from Zoning Commissioner: None

VIII. Public Comment – None

IX. Adjournment: 7:28 pm

X. Next meeting: December 2, 2021, at 5:30 pm

Michigamme Township

Planning Commission

Minutes of December 2, 2021

Present: Julia Leake, Janice Anderson, David Niemi, Terry McBride, Jason McCarthy (Zoning Administrator)

Absent: Ruth Starr

Guest: Robert DellAngelo

Call to Order: 5:30 pm

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Agenda with Amendment: Motion to approve: Leake, Second: McBride, Motion passes.

III. Approval of Minutes of November 11, 2021: Motion to approve: Julia Leake, Second: David Niemi, Motion passes.

IV. Old Business

A. Master Plan

1. Bob DellAngelo presented Planning Commission with Action Plan indicating responsible party, timeline, and funding sources for each objective.
2. Since the Development Survey upon which the Master Plan is based is 5 years old, the Planning Commission recommends that a new survey be conducted and the Master Plan updated before recommending its acceptance. Also, demographic data needs to be updated. Motion to approve administering a new survey: Julia Leake, Second: Terry McBride, Motion passes.

B. Small Animals Ordinance: Action deferred until Jason McCarthy can complete work on the language.

C. Signs Ordinance: Action deferred until Jason McCarthy can complete work on the language.

D. Blight

1. Properties still not in compliance during blight re-check on November 13, 2021 to be cited. Motion to Approve this action: Julia Leake, Second: Terry McBride, Motion passes.

2. No action to date by Marquette County Road Commission regarding car in ROW on Mesnard St.
3. No photos received from Chet DeRoche about blighted property near Arflin Lake.
4. Blight Form needs updating to eliminate confusing language. Julia and Jan will update the form and present it at the next meeting.

E. Vacation Home Rentals

1. Planning Commission will proceed as usual with current licensing of Vacation Homes in Michigamme Township until the legislature passes a bill to supersede township supervision.
2. Planning Commission needs to check Vacation Home Rental websites to see if there are unlicensed properties within our township.

V. New Business

A. New Zoning Permits Issued

1. Dan Helppi – Accessory structure (52-09327-003-00) Green Road

VI. Correspondence: None

VII. Public Comment: None

VIII. Adjournment: 7:05 pm

IX. Next meeting: January 13, 2022, 5:30 pm