

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Larry Shaffer at 4:10 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Shaffer, Lou Lundquist, Phil Bontrager, Christine Lundquist, Jennie Irvine (via zoom) and Jeff Cuthbertson (via zoom).

Also present was Julia Cogger from CCUPAD (via zoom).

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2021: The minutes were approved on a motion by Christine with support by Lou.

DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS IN MASTER PLAN PROCESS: Larry noted that the surveys related to the Master Plan were distributed with the property tax bills recently. The survey is also available on the Township's web site and physical copies can be picked up at the township office. Discussion on getting the survey to non-property owners living in the Township was discussed.

Larry asked for ideas about possible groups to invite if focus groups are formed to assist in the process of compiling the Master Plan. Groups noted included:

- Chamber of Commerce
- Historical Society
- Burt Township School
- Youth (possibly from a high school government class)
- Sportsmen's Club
- Women's Club

Phil noted it is important to ensure young people are included in the process. Jenny seconded this belief. Julia noted that workshops could be held at the school.

Christine said she believes we need to promote clean industry jobs to encourage young families to move here and populate the school.

Jeff noted that one way to get the survey to non-property owners might be to compare voter rolls to the tax rolls. He noted that we may need to invite people from the groups noted to join in more in depth conversations. Christine suggested that each focus group should include at least one planning committee member. Larry asked if the full commission would want to preside over each focus group. Jeff suggested possibly having breakout sessions after a general meeting.

The Commission agreed that the survey results should be compiled before any focus groups are formed as it will be a primary focus to proceed. Julia indicated it would take about a month to compile results, so it would be sometime in March before they would be available to the Commission. Allowing for some time to review the results, a public meeting might be held in April. Larry suggested a Saturday morning meeting, to be followed by breakout groups. The Commission agreed this may be a good idea.

Andy Smits, from the local paper, asked if the paper could receive periodic updates regarding the number of surveys returned. He wondered how we assure one person does not fill out multiple surveys? The Commission members noted that they really couldn't, but doubted that would happen often. The Commission members agreed the paper could encourage people to send the Township ideas for focus groups.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Larry read two letters received to the Commission members. The first, from Peter Dane, encouraged a sewer system for the Township. The second, from Renee & Bob Stocking, encouraged designated trails in and around town for ORVs and snowmobiles to alleviate noise, exhaust and dirt in town.

COASTAL RESILIENCY PLANNING: Julia informed the Commission about possible funding to assist with the Master Plan process through the Land Information Access Association (LIAA). She indicated that CCPAD had received information from the agency out of Traverse City. CCPAD would write the grant request, which is due later this month, to include Burt Township and two other communities in the Upper Peninsula. Lou wanted to make sure it would not water down other work on the Master plan. Jeff asked if it would obligate us to accept anything. She does not believe it would, but will double check. Julia noted it might be a gateway for funding the Master Plan and/or a sewer system. Julia agreed to obtain additional information for the upcoming Township Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 on a motion by Christine with support from Phil.