

## **PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 21, 2022**

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

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the March 3, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by Lou with support by Jennie.

**Township ATV Committee letter to Township Board:** Larry read a letter received by the Township from the ATV/Snowmobile Committee. Lori McShane from the Township Board reviewed steps being considered by the Township Board, including changes in speed limits and a proposed mileage to pay for additional law enforcement.

**Letter from Chamber of Commerce:** Larry read a letter from the Chamber of Commerce to the Township Board related to potential closure of a portion of the road along the bay and the alley behind the Grand Marais Tavern. The Chamber does not believe this is a good idea and is concerned about increased congestion on Main Street.

Christine indicated she agreed with the Chamber's position and asked about the open lots behind the Outfitters and the Dunes Saloon. If the property is available for purchase by the Township, she wondered if parking areas could be created there for the downtown area, helping to alleviate some of the current parking issues. Larry indicated this will be a topic for future review.

**Julia Cogger joined the meeting at 6:50.**

**MASTER PLAN SURVEY REVIEW:** Julia reviewed the final survey results with the Committee. Some of the items noted include:

- Changing demographics and aging population
- Desire for planned and limited structural growth
- Issues with affordable long term housing and job opportunities
- Need to maintain water quality and reduce runoff
- Varied opinions on a community sewer system
- Need for ADA parking
- Need for increased Law enforcement
- Good reviews related to leisure time activities
- Desire for designated trails for ORVs and snowmobiles
- Desire to protect and maintain natural resources including the bay, beaches, Lake Superior, & the School Forrest

Julia noted that the primary items noted by people in their “vision for 2050” were preserving natural resources and maintaining the small/quaint atmosphere of the town.

The Commission discussed the need for sustainable jobs/economic development that could bring younger families into the community, the importance of maintaining the school, and issues with long-term housing availability. It was noted that these are inter-related issues that feed off each other.

**The next meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on May 5, 2022.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 on a motion by Lou with support from Jennie.