

Burt Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 27, 2022
7:00 PM
Community Center
Brazel Street
Grand Marais, MI 49839

1. Laurence Shaffer, Chair of the Planning Commission, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.
2. Laurence Shaffer called the roll. In attendance was Lou Lundquist, Nancy Griswold, Jenny Irvine, Phil Bontrager and Laurence Shaffer. Absent was Jeff Cuthbertson and Christine Lundquist.
3. On a motion by Lou Lundquist and seconded by Jenny Irvine, the Commission unanimously approved the amended agenda to include the scheduling of a Conditional Use Permit Public Hearing for December 1, 2022.
4. On a motion by Phil Bontrager and seconded by Lou Lundquist, the Planning Commission scheduled a Public Hearing to hear the request for a Conditional Use Permit filed by Chris Hammersley for the use of property at 9921 North Ames Lake Road for four (4) campsites. The public hearing was scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Community Center on Brazel Street. The Planning Commission adopted the motion unanimously. Heather Dobberstein, Administrative Assistant will conduct the various activities required to conduct such a public hearing.
5. On a motion by Jenny Irvine and seconded by Nancy Griswold, the Planning Commission approved the minutes of the October 6, 2022 Planning Commission meeting.
6. The Planning Commission began the review of the draft Master Plan presented by Julia Cogger at the previous meeting. The following points were made:
 - A. Lou Lundquist stated that he wishes to see an emphasis upon recreation to mean tourists, trees and trails. His focus is upon the Nature in Abundance theme and the taming of the noise associated with snowmobiles and ATVs.
 - B. Nancy Griswold stated that the completion of a community sewer system is her priority. Affordable housing and economic development are critical needs. As such, a community sewer system is extremely

- important. Larry Shaffer stated that the Master Plan should include discussion of sewer system and should focus upon its needs and costs.
- C. Phil Bontrager stated that the improvement of broadband service will allow for remote working and clean industry. Mr. Bontrager was also concerned about the impact upon quality of life posed by the noise and dust challenges associated with ATVs and snowmobiles.
 - D. Jenny Irvine stated that her priorities for the Master Plan include housing of all types, economic growth and development and the building of a community sewer system. She stated that the focus should be upon preserving our assets, self-reliance and sustainability. She wants to include a definition of what affordable housing means. She would also like to see a demographic profile for those who have moved to Grand Marais.
 - E. Larry Shaffer stated that services for the elderly, the largest segment of our population, should be a priority. Transportation, medical services and fitness, both physical and psychological should be examined and prioritized. There is a need to improve the opportunities for the elderly of Grand Marais to socialize, stay fit, medically rehab, access to improve transportation services. It is time to bring the fitness center out of the basement and into a more accessible and attractive facility.
 - F. Jeff Cuthbertson expressed in previous meetings the need to create a land use map as part of the Master Plan to inform the zoning process of the recommended course that the community wishes to proceed.
 - G. Larry Shaffer said that the focus of the Master Plan had previously been exclusively upon the impact on a new zoning ordinance. He said that additionally, the Master Plan should also inform the Capital Improvement Plan of Burt Township.
7. Elise Cormier, during public comment, asked how the capacity of the public organization to initiate and administer Master Plan implementation will impact the potential for the success of the Master Plan.
 8. Jenny discussed the potential for assisted living facilities to allow for aging in place.
 9. Lou discussed the crisis in staffing for public services, especially the ambulance corp.
 10. Phil discussed alternative perspectives on the traditional forty hour workweek and the need to consider that how people work in the future will not look like how we work today.

11. There being no further business, the Planning Commission adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.