

## **PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES – OCTOBER 29, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairperson Shaffer.

**Members Present:** Larry Shaffer, Nancy Griswold, Lou Lundquist, Phil Bontrager, & Christine Lundquist

**Public Comment:** Sherri Schafer, Township Supervisor, noted she was happy to see the full committee functioning again.

**Public Hearing:** Motion by Christine, supported by Nancy to open the public hearing regarding the Conditional Use Permit Application submitted by Albert Larsen related to a small engine and auto repair garage at N14121 Ellen Street. Motion carried.

Larry read a letter received in support of the proposed business for the record. A copy will be attached to these minutes. There being no additional public comment, a motion was made by Lou, supported by Phil, to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

**Motion by Christine, supported by Lou, to approve the conditional use permit submitted by Mr. Larsen. Motion carried.**

While waiting for the CUPPAD representative to arrive, Lou brought up the pole barn attached to the community building, noting its age and limited use. He noted that it would be nice to have a facility where people could safely walk in the winter. A multi-use facility would be beneficial, with part of it possibly providing space to expand the library and make it more accessible. Sherri Shaffer noted it would also be beneficial to be able to move the fitness center from the basement as it is not currently accessible to many people. Phil noted that the Erickson Center in Curtis was an impressive facility plan and might provide a starting point when considering a new facility.

**Dottie LaJoye from CUPPAD arrived at 6:35** to discuss the recreation plan survey and next steps in the process of putting together the recreation plan for the Township. She provided a summary of the survey results, including 134 comments that were included on the surveys received. The greatest support on the survey related to a bike/cross country trail adjacent to H-58 East. A copy of the survey results are attached to these minutes.

Ms. LaJoye discussed the process of putting together an action plan with CUPPAD's assistance, noting the importance of including funding and maintenance plans in what is presented. These could include the use of Township staff and volunteers. She also noted the need for post completion reports on former plans by project. Various funding sources, such as Rural Development and DNR were discussed. Access to the Recreation Grant Portal System was discussed.

The deadline to get the recreation plan to the DNR is February 1. Ms. LaJoye reminded the committee that there is a 30 day public comment period required before submission of the plan.

Ms. LaJoye left the meeting at 7:20.

Larry scheduled a meeting to begin work on the recreation plan for November 5, 2020 sat 6:00pm.

Motion by Christine supported by Nancy to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.