**Powell Township**

**101 Bensinger Street**

**Big Bay, MI. 49808**

**Planning Commission - Regular Meeting Minutes**

**August 19th, 2020**

**~~Draft~~**

**Approved September 16th, 2020**

1. **Call to Order:**

Vice Chair Amanda Stephenson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. at the Township Hall.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. **Roll Call:**

**Members present**:

Stephenson (Vice Chair), Williams, Childers, Hudson, Korstad, Mohrman

**Members absent:**

Moran(Chair)

1. **Approval of Agenda :**

Motion to accept the August 19th, 2020 Agenda. (Stephenson/Williams) All in favor motion carried.

1. **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve the July 15th, 2020 minutes. (Hudson/Korstad) All in favor motion carried.

1. **Updates from Zoning Administrator:**
   1. Township Supervisor Turner handed out an update permit list. 15 permits were issued in July and 1 so far in August.
   2. Morhman asked if there was any information on the variance that was on the updated permit list. Supervisor Turner stated she emailed the variance information to Morhman and can email the information to the rest of the Planning Commission members.
2. **Unfinished Business:**
3. Jason McCarthy Master Plan:

* McCarthy stated he updated pictures and categories in chapter 10.
* McCarthy stated the Township has to many zoning districts that could be simplified.
* Mohrman stated she would like to see a list of non-conforming properties.
* McCarthy asked the Planning Commission to identify areas for growth and change on a map for him so he can make updates to chapter 10.
* McCarthy stated that if the Planning Commission gets a list of TP-40’s with homesteads he can create a map on the computer showing the non conforming properties. Then the Commission can decide on changes.
* McCarthy stated the Planning Commission needs to be getting monthly updates regarding permits from the zoning admin.
* Korstad asked if changes are made to the zoning map will taxes change and will residents accept this well? McCarthy ~~stated yes taxes will change~~ stated that taxes would not change and a public hearing would be needed.
* Childers asked Supervisor Turner if variances and permits are common in the Township. Turner stated, no.
* McCarthy stated he wants the next meeting to take place in person to review the future land use map.

1. **New Business:** 
   1. Space Port
      * Childers stated she head that 30 acres were sold at Loma Farms.
      * Hudson asked if the Federal or State Government will over rule the Planning Commission in regards to the Space Port.
      * Mohrman stated the Commission needs to figure out a plan on how to educate themselves about space ports.
      * Mohrman suggested a 6 month moratorium on space ports while the Commission members conduct research. Mohrman stated she could make a list of tasks for members to sign up for.
      * McCarthy stated a moratorium has been used in Marquette Township for things as well.
      * Williams asked if a moratorium is revocable. McCarthy stated yes, right away.
   2. Motion to approve a 6 month moratorium on space ports in Powell Township starting on 08.19.20 that can be renewed or revoked (Stephenson/Korstad). All yes, motion carried.
   3. Motion to table Zoning Admin request to rezone TP-40’s to RR-5’s on parcel #’s 52-11-019-014-00, and 51-11- 019-017-00 (Mohrman/Childers) *Discussion as follows.* All in favor, motion carried.
      * Mohrman stated the Planning Commission should review the zoning map changes first.
      * Mohrman stated the individuals should put in applications to rezone their properties and go through the process and pay the fee’s as it is costly to the Township.
2. **Call to the Public: time for Citizens to be Heard-**
   1. G. Champagne- Stated he hopes the Planning Commission will put a moratorium in place for space ports tonight. Otherwise, a permit could come in before research was done.
   2. M. Sorrell- Stated he thinks the information needed from those involved in the developing the space port should come to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission should not have to go to them for the information.
   3. G. Champange- Stated he feels a 1 year moratorium should be placed so the Commission has time to do research and get it out to the public as well. The moratorium could always be revoked earlier.
   4. G. Champagne- Stated he would like to keep lake shore and rivers and lake shore and rivers 2. Don’t go to commercial water.
   5. Turner stated there are residents who have put a lot of money and effort into their homes on Saux Head Lake Road that could be affected by a space port.
   6. Turner stated she would like to stand up for the Zoning Administrator as she feels he has done a great job for the Township. If there is a lack of communication she feels it is her fault.
3. **Board Discussion:** 
   1. Childers stated she does not like the idea of having pictures from other areas in the Master Plan. She would like to see pictures of Powell Township.
   2. Morhman stated everyone should do research before next meeting on what a space port is, and what it all entails, and find out about towns that already have them and how it has affected them.

**Next Meeting:**

September 16th, 2020 at the Township Hall and Virtually with call in information on Powell Township website.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:10p.m. (Stephenson/Childers ) All in favor motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Fraley

Recording Secretary