

St. James Township Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 6th, 2020

Present: Cole, Croswhite, McGinnity, Tidmore

Absent:

Other: Nathan Altman, Marcy Dean, Cynthia Johnson, Rick Speck,

1. Call to Order: McGinnity called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. Additions/Changes to Agenda: A discussion of permitting requirements for docks was added under New Business
3. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Motion to approve minutes from September 22nd, 2020 Special Meeting proposed by Cole, seconded by Tidmore—motion passed.
4. New Business
 - a) Dock permitting requirements

Tidmore raised the question of why permanent docks do not require Zoning permits, though they are listed as a permitted use in the Marine Related District. Speck explained that it is the Army Corp of engineers who permits and regulates docks. It was agreed to explore whether Zoning permits might also be required.

5. Old Business
 - a) Planning Commission Membership Update

A letter from McNamara explained that three candidates had been selected for addition to the Planning Commission, the membership of which would be increased by the Township Board from 5 to 7. If the language for the change is not ready for the meeting on October 7th, then one member will be appointed this month, with the other two being appointed in November.

The commissioners expressed appreciation for the interest in serving on the Planning Commission.

- b) Zoning Ordinance Updates

The letter from McNamara also stated that she and Tidmore met and reviewed the two proposals for updating the Ordinance, and were leaning toward Wade Trim. She planned to make a recommendation to the Board for adoption at the November meeting, with work likely beginning in January. She also hopes to have the Administrative Support position posted in December to start in January.

c) Recreational Marijuana

Croswhite explained that thought meetings of the subcommittee focusing on the Township response to recreational marijuana had stopped at the time of the shutdown, they had been working on publicizing restrictions on public use. As of now the township has opted out of permitting any of the classes of marijuana-related businesses. It was reiterated that the island voters overwhelmingly voted to legalize recreational marijuana, but it remains unclear whether the public is as interested in allowing marijuana businesses on the island.

d) Food Truck Ordinance

It was noted that the food truck that was in violation of the ordinance downtown had been moved as agreed. McGinnity reminded the commission that the Township has expressed an interest in having an ordinance for food trucks in place before the next summer season. Cole and McGinnity agreed to meet as a committee to work on researching and putting together a draft.

6. Public Comment:

Tidmore mentioned that Charlevoix County Planning Commission had recommended approval of the Stein Rezone, so it would go to the Township Board for final approval.

Cole asked about the fine structure for Zoning Ordinance violations. Speck explained that the Township Board had passed a sliding scale so that in future, violations can be dealt with promptly and consistently.

7. Correspondence:

Meeting adjourned 7:35 pm

Next scheduled Regular Meeting: November 3rd, 2020