



**TOWNSHIP OF STRONACH**  
**Planning Commission**  
**(Manistee County)**  
**2471 Main St RR3**  
**Manistee Michigan, 49660**

**Stronach Township Planning Meeting – June 17, 2020**

Call meeting to order with pledge at 6:30 pm.

Present were: Carl Lacki, Ann Hooghart, Bob Rishel, Connie Tewes, Phil Landis. Larry Thompson, Zoning Administrator. Motion made to accept the meeting agenda as amended for June 17, 2020. Motion made by Landis with a second by Hooghart. Motion carried. Motion made by Hooghart to accept the May 27, 2020 planning meeting minutes as presented. Second by Lacki and motion carried.

**Public comment:** None

**Zoning Administrator Report:** 3 permits have been issued this week. Larry contacted the individual on Pine Creek Road who had not gotten required permits.

**Communications:** None received.

**Committee Reports:** Carl Lacki reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals held its semi-annual meeting. He commented that there was a question as to whether there is a maximum number of small storage buildings allowed on a property. There is not a maximum number though a permit is required, and setback requirements need to met.

**Old Business:**

- 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance – Board members were asked for their perspectives on the proposed ordinance and moving forward with a public hearing. Lacki was comfortable with the wording and in favor of the ordinance; Tewes feels it is redundant and unnecessary as the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment is in place and Michigan law already fully supports gun rights; Hooghart felt there is too much paperwork in adding ordinances, but would support it; Landis stated it doesn't give any more rights, merely reinforces what is in place; Rishel strongly believes that it is necessary to protect the right.

Lacki moved to hold a public hearing for the proposed ordinance with a second by Landis. Roll call vote – Annie Hooghart – yes, Phil Landis – yes, Carl Lacki – yes, Bob Rishel – yes, Connie Tewes – no. Motion carried. A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 in the Township hall.

- Update on Tondu facility – Tondus plan to move forward by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Future use of Skocelas fire barn – Wayne Lindeman stated that there is a plan for the building, but he had not felt confident that funding would be available. Wayne invited

the board and interested Township residents to tour the building on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. After the tour, the original fire barn committee will meet.

There was discussion regarding allocating funds for the fire barn's future improvements in the same way that the Township currently designates a quarterly allocation to a fund specifically for road and street improvements. The Planning Board will send a letter to the Township Board suggesting that this be considered.

- ORV – Larry Thompson presented the board with a copy of the Grant Township ORV Ordinance from July 2012 and a 2009 article about the Mason County Board of Commissioners' position on a county-wide ORV ordinance. Phil Landis noted that most of Mason County is on board with an ORV ordinance, but the County itself is not.

Board members discussed that there could be issues with people going wherever they want, issues with enforcement, etc., but the DNR will enforce if an ordinance is in place. People driving golf carts have already been seen on 6 Mile Bridge Rd and on Skocelas Rd. A public hearing will be set up after July 22<sup>nd</sup> to gather township resident perspectives.

#### **New Business:**

- Terry Lindeman reported on the river access committee activity. The committee believes the project completion will be accomplished over more than one year. The plan is to ask the Township Board for a survey of Township properties. The goal this year is to clear out the 2 Martin Marietta properties and maybe fix the road. Lindeman's goal is to have a public hearing on the project. This hearing will likely be set up after the July 22<sup>nd</sup> public hearing.

Another option for the property is to ask the DNR if it would be interested in the property and developing it. The recreational area updates need to be addressed in the master plan. This will require a public hearing as the planning board cannot unilaterally update the master plan.

- Master Plan – Postponed until July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting

#### **Public Comment**

Walt Froncek commented that insurance liability is an important consideration for the river access project, and it would be a good idea to contact the Township insurance carrier. Duke Woodruff asked about the river access project and was wondering why he, as an adjacent property owner, had not been informed. He had heard that there was going to be a road put in around his property and felt that more access would cause issues for him as a property owner. He was answered that nothing had been decided as the project was still in an information-gathering stage. He was invited to be a committee member as it is difficult for Carl Lacki to be as involved as he would like due to work considerations.

#### **July Meeting Agenda**

- Public Hearing July 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Tondu facility update
- ORV
- River property committee update if any
- Master Plan update

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Connie M. Tewes".

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Tewes  
Stronach Township Planning Commission Secretary