

**FOREST HOME TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016**

Member present: Paul Trumble, Doug Dewey, Tom Sheneman, Linda Cran
Absent: Dan Steiner
Also present: Tom Frey, Sue Mahan and Carolyn Nichols

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tom Frey thanked the members for continuing public comment at the end meetings and starting meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA:

It was moved by Tom Sheneman, seconded by Doug Dewey that the agenda be approved with one addition to New Business adding Linda Cran to speak on Home Based Businesses. Motion carried – Unanimous.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR – STEPHEN BARNARD UPDATE

He reported that four (4) permits have been issued in 2016 in which two (2) are new home construction. The ongoing cleanup matter Mr. Bacon properties continues and he currently has the two (2) cabins on wheels parked in his yard, one (1) is for sale and the other one (1) is to be moved to Central Lake. Mr. Bacon has requested information about constructing a dwelling on his waterfront property. A complaint has been made by Mr. Stellin regarding Mr. Johnson's property, north of 620 and is currently investigating this site. The rubbish is visible to those passing by during the winter and spring months. Although, not as noticeable during the summer months due to foliage and brush covering the junk. He will provide a follow up report at the next meeting and plans to obtain samples of Junk Ordinances from other townships.

Met with Township Attorney, Bill Derman to discuss Article 344 – Rentals, the Zoning Administrator asked the members if they would be interested in more information. At this time the members replied as follows: No – Sheneman, Dewey, Trumble; Yes – Cran; Absent – Steiner.

MINUTES:

It was moved by Tom Sheneman, seconded by Doug Dewey that the minutes of March 2, 2016 meeting be approved as written. Motion carried as follows: Yes – Sheneman, Dewey, Trumble; No – Cran; Absent – Steiner.

OLD BUSINESS:

FHT Zoning Ordinance

Stephen Barnard distributed the new printed pages for members to insert into their FHT Zoning Ordinance book.

Medical Marihuana Update

Paul Trumble provided a copy of an article from the March 2016 Township Planning & Zoning News regarding Medical Marihuana and House Bill 4209.

NEW BUSINESS:

Linda Cran – Home Based Business/Home Occupations

Ruthann's Gourmet Bakery at 7525 Meadow Lane a commercial business being conducted in a Rural Residential (RR) Land Use Zone. Review shows the business is being advertised on the Website under Ruthann's Gourmet's Bakery and Facebook specializing in and taking orders for wedding cakes, specialty cookies and commercial baked goods for companies, etc. Also, this business was featured on TV 9 & 10 with the owner giving a tour of the business, showing a commercial kitchen, and offering cooking classes.

Her business appears to be conducted in an orderly matter, however, is this any different than other commercial businesses that tried to establish in our township and turned down.

Stephen Barnard -Zoning Administrator will follow up on this and will report back to commission.

Carolyn Nichols – Cedar Meadows resident stated that she has heard no complaints from any of the residents of the subdivision.

The Chairman requested public comment: Tom Frey stated his concerns with the township ordinance language concerning the lakefront property regulations for one (1) dock for one (1) parcel and that the number of boats for each parcel is not addressed and that the consideration be given to some form of police enforcement. This is not about families; it's about large groups that gather throwing parties. What happens if the Torch Lake Sandbar is no longer permitted for the uses as in the past, and how will the police enforce? Carolyn Nichols spoke on the boat registration will be registered or linked to the property owners. She also asked if weekly rentals are addressed in the Ordinance, Cedar Meadows subdivision has shared 500 feet of waterfront and group rentals do cause a liability to the property owners. Paul stated that this issue is not addressed by township at this time.

Paul Trumble and Stephen Barnard spoke on the cost of police enforcement and legal fees would be very costly to the Township. Enforcement issues should be addressed with the Sheriff, Local Police or the DNR.

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Chairman, Paul Trumble

Secretary, Linda Cran