

1-17-11

To the members of the planning commission:

Dear friends:

There still seems to be a great deal of erroneous information floating around about me. I have been wrongly accused of losing or hiding letters from the Chief Lake Camp which would have made the stop work letter unnecessary. This is not true as the applicants will testify. Mr. Mitchell incorrectly remembers that Mark Blomquist, the architect for the camp and Steve Nesbitt the manager visited him to show him such letters. The only visit which occurred was with Mark, Steve and myself on Aug. 25. No letters were brought or exchanged. The three of us wanted Dan to hear about the complexity of the permitting process in order to see if Dan agreed that it would constitute progress and thus become the basis for an extension of their Conditional Use. Dan agreed that it looked sufficient to be the basis for an extension. There was one letter which came from Mark and Steve after this meeting. That letter is the one you were all given at the special meeting of the Planning Commission on Oct. 2.

If this were the only thing it would be bad but there is more. It was alleged in the letter which I believe all of you got at the closed secret meeting, that the originals were not on file in the township office. This is plainly not true. Originals of all township documents are the property of the township and it is the township's clerk whose responsibility it is to keep them. Since we did not have a functional clerk, Faye Mattila has been kind enough to file the zoning documents. I can only keep copies in my personal files. The originals are on file in the township office, The permittee gets a copy of his approved or disapproved request the assessor gets a copy, I get a copy and I keep one spare. That is, one original and four copies.

We had a serious problem with the conditional use permit for the Chief Lake Camp. It disappeared after the last public hearing which meant that it could not be signed off with the proper conditional use attached to it and the treasurer's signature could not be added. Talk about embarrassment, it also caused a great deal of difficulty when the camp went to Marquette County Construction codes in the County court house and we had to do a great deal of improvising to get permits from them. Last month when Dan resigned and walked out of the meeting, he left with Jim Brenan a grocery bag of papers. Fortunately my wife asked Jim to search the bag of papers to see if by chance the missing conditional use application might be in it. Jim called back a short time later to say that the missing document was indeed in the grocery bag. The form of course still needed the missing information from a nearly a year before. It still needed to be filed but not before it caused its own problems and delays, and not before it became another example of my alleged poor record keeping. In Mr. Mitchell's letter of complaint to the township board, he wants to "instruct the current Administrator to provide all records stored at his residence. I think in view of this demonstration of record keeping we should instruct the former Chairman of the Planning Commission to provide all the grocery bags of records stored in his basement. At best, it was another example of bad memory. At the worst it might be considered another effort to make the Zoning Administrator look incompetent. I think at the very least the former Chairman owes the Zoning Administrator an apology.

(g) "Partisan caucuses of member of the state legislature."

(h) "To consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute."

(i) "For a compliance conference conducted by the department of commerce...."

(j) "In the process of searching for and selecting a president of an institution of higher learning..."