

Don Tapio, Vice Chair
Tom Feldhusen
John Kraft

Martin Oakley, Chairperson

Gary Johnson, Secretary
Frank Haslip
Tom Sandblom

**REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION**

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES 12/11/2017

1. Meeting Called to Order at appx 7pm
2. Salute to the flag did not occur as there is no flag in the alternate meeting room.
3. Roll Call: Mr. Oakley, Mr. Kraft, Mr. Feldhusen, Mr. Sandblom, and Mr. Haslip were present. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Tapio were absent and excused. Mr. Terry Knapp was present as Zoning Administrator.
4. Approval of Agenda: Motion to Approve made by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Haslip. Passed by voice vote.
5. Approval of Minutes:
 - a) PC Meeting Minutes 11/13/2017: Motion to approve mad by Mr. Haslip, seconded by Mr. Kraft. Passed by voice vote.
 - b) Rec Committee Minutes 12/07/2017: Were not ready as was still within allowed 8 days to prepare them.
6. Reports:
 - a) Zoning Administrator: Mr. Knapp presented his written report as well as updated the PC on the ongoing situation with the Lindholm property. Also mentioned was the owner of the Chief Lake Wilderness Youth Camp looking to demolish the buildings on the property. Mr. Oakley spoke of the offer made by the owner of the property to let the Republic Fire Department use it as an exercise and burn them down. Mr. Knapp also spoke of the fact that we were losing the attorney we were using on the Lindholm case to retirement.

Motion to accept report by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Feldhusen. Passed by voice vote.
 - b) Rec Committee: Mr. James Brennan reported on the lights and tree that were up at the pavilion in Munson Park for Christmas, as well as the Rec Committee looking at options for the Coffee Property that was deeded to the township for recreational purposes. An indoor shooting range, an archery trail, hiking/snowshoeing/cross-country ski trails are all options currently being looked at.

Mr. Brennan also gave an in-depth report on the meeting that was held in Marquette with Senator Casperon and Representative Cambensy in attendance about the Republic Dam on the Michigamme river. Follow up between Dam owner, Township officials, and the DEQ to come to agreement on what the specific next steps must be to occur after the first of the year.

Motion to accept by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Oakley. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - c) PC Chair Report: Attended the Dam meeting as well, had nothing further to add to Mr. Brennan's report.
7. Old Business:
 - a) Capital Improvements: Discussion and further explanations were made upon the proposed Capital Improvements Plan submitted by Mr. Oakley through discussions with the various heads of the departments within the Township.

Motion to forward the Capital Improvements Plan with recommendation to approve to the township Board by Mr. Sandblom, seconded by Mr. Kraft. Motion passed by roll call vote unanimously from all in attendance.

b) Economic Development: Mr. Haslip spoke with the LaFave family that runs many BP stations about interest in placing a BP station in Republic. Was forwarded to a BP representative who spoke of the lowest amount of gas sold in one of their new stations being 650,000 gallons per month. No action was taken.

Marihuana Zoning and Discussion moved to coincide with Agricultural Zone discussion under New Business.

c) Recreation Plan: Due to unforeseen circumstances the planned upon public hearing to approve the recreation plan and move it to the township board did not occur. Discussion was brought to the table by Mr. Kraft about a change in requirements for filing the recreation plan. Discussion followed as to the best course of action, and it was the consensus of the commission to return with the needed information at January's meeting and attempt to move forward with a public hearing in February of 2018 in order to expedite matters as quickly as is allowable by law.

8. New Business:

a) Agricultural Zoning: Through a concern that was raised by Mr. Knapp, our Zoning Administrator, a discussion was held as to whether or not the current Zoning Ordinance allowed a "Licensed Marihuana Growing Facility" to be located within the township or not. Mr. Oakley contended that the current Zoning Ordinance did, assisted by comments by Mr. Casey Honeyager who was also in attendance. A spirited debate followed.

Motion to refer the question to one of the township attorneys was made by Mr. Sandblom, Seconded by Mr. Kraft. The motion passed by voice vote.

b) Tiny Houses were brought up by Mr. Sandblom and whether or not we could become such a hub. Much needed laughter occurred after the spirited debate. No action taken.

9. Public Comment:

John Ulrich, Township Supervisor

10. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sincerely,



Martin R. Oakley, Planning Commission Chairperson.