

**Melrose Township Planning Commission Minutes
Melrose Township Hall
Regular Meeting of December 3, 2018**

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

A. Call to Order: Chair Bart Wangeman called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

B. Members present: Bart Wangeman, Phyllis Cotanche, Bob Bourassa, Sue Barr, and Bunny Marquardt.

C. Members absent: None

D. Staff present:

Zoning Administrator Randy Frykberg, Recording Secretary Tom Mackie.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Tentative Agenda was approved by consensus.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bunny Marquardt motioned, Bob Bourassa seconded, to approve the October 3, 2018 special meeting minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Recreational Use of Marihuana

Randy noted the Township Board has directed the Planning Commission to discuss the potential impact of "Commercial" marihuana facilities in the Township resulting from voter approval of Proposal 1 legalizing recreational marihuana, and to provide recommendations on potential regulations. The Township may opt-in to regulate, or completely prohibit, licensed marihuana facilities that would include growing, processing, transporting, selling, and other types of related businesses licensed by the state.

Bart suggested we have no time constraint on this review because the state has up to a year to begin accepting applications for marihuana establishments. However, he believes this is an appropriate time to begin discussion.

Following discussion, we determined it is appropriate to limit the scope of our review to land-use issues and how commercial marihuana facilities may, or may not, conform with our Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan Guidelines. Any future regulations will likely be part of a stand-alone ordinance, but the township Board will make this determination.

Randy noted private businesses may chose to limit the use of marihuana as a policy decision, although smoking in general is already prohibited in these facilities by state law. Randy also noted the difference between the regulation process for recreational and medical marihuana. Recreational marihuana is an opt-out process where commercial facilities are automatically allowed unless specifically prohibited. Medical marihuana facilities require an opt-in decision by the local jurisdiction before they are allowed.

Bart noted our current prohibition of alcohol in the Township Park and Beach and suggested a consistent policy for marijuana may be reasonable. However, we also noted there are currently no restrictions on tobacco consumption at these sites.

Bunny asked how other local municipalities are pursuing this. Randy noted everyone is just getting started but, currently, only the larger cities and townships seem to be actively pursuing regulation at present.

Bart suggested the Master Plan Goals may provide some direction and asked all members to review the document for future discussion.

Audience member Charles Zimmer suggested any use prohibition in the township park may be discriminatory without a distinction between medical and recreational use.

Bunny expressed support for considering regulations relative to our Zoning Ordinance, Master Plan, and other zoning issues.

Phyllis expressed support for consumption limits on public land.

Bart asked if Charlevoix County could provide any insight or direction. Randy will contact Kirsten Stark and will also ask about the potential for a uniform ordinance that could be enforced at the county level and be available to all townships within the county.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

VI. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS** - Randy reported receiving and processing one application for a parcel split following the recent Zoning Ordinance amendment to rename Ag as Farm & Forest and reduce the minimum lot size to 5 acres.

VII. **PLANNING COMMISSIONER COMMENTS** – Bunny reported receiving multiple inquiries concerning living space over an un-attached garage. Any applicant considering this should address their plans with the Zoning Administrator.

Bunny announced she will resign from the Planning Commission as her travel and other commitments prevent her from attending meetings.

VIII. **CITIZEN COMMENTS** – None

IX. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** – Scheduled for Monday, **January 28, 2019 at 5:30 PM.**

X. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Prepared by:

Planning Commission Approval by:

Tom Mackie, Recording Secretary

Sue Barr, Secretary

Copies: Melrose Township Board, Planning Commission Members, Township web site