

**Melrose Township Planning Commission Minutes
Melrose Township Hall
Regular Meeting of February 4, 2019**

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 and Sue Barr.

C. Members absent: None

D. Staff present:

Zoning Administrator Randy Frykberg

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Tentative Agenda was approved by consensus. It was noted that tonight's meeting is in lieu of the weather-postponed January 28 scheduled meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bob Bourassa motioned, Sue Barr seconded, to approve the December 3, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers for 2019

Bart turned the meeting over to Randy Frykberg who explained the process for election of officers. Randy indicated he would ask three times for nominations for Chair and the State Planning Enabling Act does not allow an elected Township Trustee to serve as an officer. Bob Bourassa nominated Bart, with a second from Sue Barr. Randy then asked for any additional nominations. Following a third call for nominations, and none being offered, a roll call vote was taken on the one supported nominee and **Bart Wangeman was elected Chair with a vote of all ayes**. Randy then turned the meeting back over to Bart.

Bart asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Sue Barr nominated Bob Bourassa, with a second from Bart Wangeman. Following two more calls for nominations, and none being offered, Bart called for a roll call vote and **Bob Bourassa was elected Vice-Chair with a vote of all ayes**.

Bart then asked for nominations for Secretary and Bob Bourassa nominated Sue, with a second from Phyllis Cotanche. Following two more calls for nominations, and none being offered, Bart called for a roll call vote and **Sue Barr was elected Secretary with a vote of all ayes**.

B. Meeting Dates and Times for April 2019 through March 2020

Following discussion, Bob Bourassa motioned, Phyllis Cotanche seconded, to schedule our FYE ending 2020 regular meetings for the 4th Monday of every month (except February and December) beginning at 5:30 PM. All ayes, motion carried.

C. Mass Gathering Permit for Northern Michigan Flywheelers

Randy presented the Flywheeler's annual Mass Gathering Permit application for their annual show July 25-28, 2019. He noted there has been no problems reported in the last few years and no changes in facilities or operation have been proposed. He noted the County Sheriff's Department, as well as the Melrose Township Fire Department, maintain a presence throughout the 4-day event.

Bob Bourassa motioned, 2nd by Phyllis Cotanche, to recommend the Township Board of Trustees grant a Mass Gathering License to the Flywheelers for their annual show on July 25th through July 28th, 2019 based on their completed application and long history of operation without problems or complaints. All ayes, motion carried.

D. Mass Gathering Permit for MKB Restaurant Holdings, Fourth of July Celebration

Randy presented the MKB Restaurant application for the Fourth of July Celebration in the Village. Discussion ensued that maybe the answers to item # 10 in the Ordinance were less complete than they could have been. Phyllis expressed concern about a noise end time of 11 PM. Since the Township doesn't have a noise ordinance, it won't be dark enough for fireworks at that time of year until 10:30, and because their application specifies all activities will end by 11 pm, the Commissioners felt comfortable proceeding.

Bart Wangeman motioned, 2nd by Sue Barr, to recommend the Township Board of Trustees grant a Mass Gathering License to MKB Restaurant Holdings for their annual Fourth of July Celebration from noon to 11:30 pm, 2019 based on their completed application. All ayes, motion carried.

E. Mass Gathering Permit for MKB Restaurant Holdings, Mini-Triathlon

Randy presented the MKB Restaurant application for the annual Mini-Triathlon to be held on July 27, 2019 in conjunction with the afternoon "Celebrate Walloon". Discussion ensued that maybe the answers to item # 10 in the Ordinance were less complete than they could have been.

Bart Wangeman motioned, 2nd by Sue Barr, to recommend the Township Board of Trustees grant a Mass Gathering License to MKB Restaurant Holdings for their annual Fourth of July Celebration from noon to 11:30 pm, 2019 based on their completed application. All ayes, motion carried.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Recreational Use of Marihuana

This topic was discussed last month. Randy reviewed some of the highlights of that meeting and noted that the Planning Directors in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties have not taken any action yet. The Master Plan addresses the issue with the following statements:

- *“Township decision-makers should help retain the existing quiet, scenic, rural and historical character of the Township...”* and
- the Township *“will seek to manage and guide growth to maintain and enhance the high quality of rural life for residents and visitors through implementation of this Master Plan”*.

The act passed by voters not only allows individuals 21 years of age or older to possess and use 2.5 ounces or less of marihuana, it also authorizes marihuana establishments (grower, safety compliance facility, processor, microbusiness, retailer, transporter or any other marihuana-related business licensed by the state). However, the state has up to a year to promulgate administrative rules regulating marihuana establishments.

Several municipalities in the area have passed, or are considering passing, an “opt out” marihuana ordinance, at least for now, so they can evaluate the forthcoming state rules prior to making changes, if any.

The Commissioners liked the media explanation of the Charlevoix action to “Opt-Out”. They decided by consensus to keep an eye on this situation but take no action at this time.

- VI. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS** - Randy reported about the possibility of expanding stores and residences in the Village. The property owner thought it could be in the area south and east of the Boat Launch ramp parking lot. The area is in 3 different zoning districts, C-3, R-2 and FF, so perhaps the best way to develop the property would be with a PUD. Affordable housing is needed, but parking must be maintained and expanded for new stores/residences. That has all been included in the owner’s general concepts. Consensus was to proceed and consider a PUD.

- VII. PLANNING COMMISSIONER COMMENTS** – None

- VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS** – None

- IX. NEXT REGULAR MEETING** – Scheduled for Monday, **March 25, 2019** at **5:30 PM**.

- X. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Prepared by:

Planning Commission Approval by:

Randy Frykberg, Recording Secretary

Sue Barr, Secretary

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