

**Melrose Township Planning Commission Minutes
Melrose Township Hall
Regular Meeting of May 20, 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, Charley Zimmer, and Tim LaGasse.
- C. Members absent:** None
- D. Staff present:**
Zoning Administrator Randy Frykberg and Recoding Secretary Tom Mackie

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by consensus with the addition of item IV (B), "Election of Secretary."

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bob Bourassa motioned, Charley Zimmer seconded, to approve the March 25, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recreational Marijuana Facilities Discussion

Randy noted the Planning Commission has been considering this issue since December 2018 and he has included some of the earlier discussion in this month's memo to the Planning Commission. It appears most Northern Michigan communities are electing to opt-out of allowing commercial facilities, as recommended by the Michigan Townships Association.

If we decide to proceed our next issue is to consider what areas of the Township may be appropriate for the various commercial activities based on land-use concerns. Randy, however, recommended the Township opt-out of any commercial marijuana activities for now and potentially revisit the issue after Michigan's licensing department releases its set of regulations for recreational marijuana businesses.

Bob expressed agreement with Randy's assessment, noting we can always revisit the issue later. Tim agreed, noting employers and law enforcement also have concerns with allowing commercial facilities when the state has not yet issued their regulations. Bart also expressed agreement. Charley suggested a failure to opt-out at the present time would potentially subject the township to unintended consequences. Phyllis expressed agreement with opting-out for now.

Randy noted the state is currently pursuing "Emergency rules;" however, we don't yet know what this may mean. He will research this, as well as participate in some upcoming webinars, to learn more.

Tim LaGasse motioned, 2nd by Bob Bourassa, to recommend the Township opt-out of all commercial recreational marihuana facilities in the Township, based on the uncertainty of rules and regulations currently under development by Michigan's Office of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. All ayes, Motion carried.

B. Election of Secretary

Randy noted the position of Secretary is currently vacant and described the duties of this position. Bart asked for nominations and Bob nominated Charley Zimmer. Following two more calls for nominations, and none being offered, **Charley Zimmer was elected as Planning Commission Secretary with a vote of all ayes.**

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VI. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS: Randy noted he will be soon be participating in various seminars and webinars concerning recreational marihuana and will report what he learns to the Planning Commission.

Randy also reported Jonathon Borisch is currently looking at other properties close to the village for potential worker housing but has submitted no application yet.

VII. PLANNING COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

IX. NEXT MEETING: Scheduled for June 24, 2019

X. ADJOURNMENT: At 6:25 PM

Prepared by

Planning Commission Approval by:

Tom Mackie, Recording Secretary

Charley Zimmer, Secretary

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