

**Whitewater Township Marihuana Committee**

**In-Person and VIA ZOOM**

**Minutes for Meeting**

**February 21, 2022**

**Call to order 6:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call:** Goss, Hall, Jacobson, Mellor, Vollmuth

**Set / Approve Agenda:**

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** None

**Public Comment:**

**Approval of minutes:** None – first meeting of the committee

**Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments/Correspondence:**

**New Business:**

1. Organization of Committee / Select Chairperson/Review purpose

Goss, Hall and Vollmuth nominated to be chair of the committee. Hall accepts the nomination.

**Motion** by Vollmuth, second by Mellor to nominate Hall as Chair.

Roll call: Mellor-yes; Jacobson-yes; Vollmuth-yes; Goss-yes; Hall-yes. Motion carried.

2. Ordinances 59 and 60. Goss handed out notes that she came up with regarding the ordinances. The Zoning Administrator (ZA) will be the one who receives applications. Goss notes that the application can be modified to be used as the check list. Hall notes that the ordinance has everything listed that is needed. Goss will bring back a separate check list based on the ordinance for input. Add a second column to the application for the ZA checklist. The application has been approved by the Township Board and can be modified to be re-approved. Helping to make the process smooth for the applicant and the ZA. Include the verbiage, “All documents should be submitted and clearly identified in the same order as they appear in the application.”

Who will determine how many permits each applicant is going to be allowed? Will the first applicant get all of the permits?

If they meet the standards we are required to allow.

Does the township have any goals in mind, how this comes in to being? Does the township have any preference for individuals (local) or for corporations? Experienced or not experienced?

In the ordinance / application process there are questions regarding their history.

Based on a group visit to other communities, Jacobson notes that he is very impressed with the application, approach and process being used in Kalkaska. Can we get the Kalkaska application process that we can reference?

We want community minded people.

The Planning Commission (PC) is working on the zoning for ordinances 59 and 60.

Focus on the neighborhood rather than the building structure. That is part of the PC discussion and planning.

The application will go to the ZA who will present to the Board for approval. A special use permit application will be brought before the PC which will require a public hearing.

The ordinance, application and checklist should all fit clearly together.

Leelanau has a set of questions, a rubric, that we can look at also.

What does “certificate of good standing” mean? Clarification needed. LARA has that information.

Adult use has everything built right into the ordinance. Medical may need specific guidance.

Reach out to other communities for interview process.

The state allows a pre-qualification to let them come to the township to get their permit and zoning approved.

Can ask the question, "Where are you in the process of qualification with the state?" We can come up with a "scoring rubric". Discussion of interview questions regarding history of legal issues, etc. Interview questions in Kalkaska are a pre-screening before they are even given the application. Kalkaska has a DDA. There is some question regarding the legalities of pre-application interviews. What grounds would you have to not allow someone to even get an application? We will need to check the legal status of that. Applications, business plans, etc., are non-disclosable to the public.

3. Other topics the committee wishes to address. Discussion of time frame to get this committee work completed.

**Next meeting:** March 21, 2022, 6 p.m. Agenda: Application check list.

**Public Comment:**

Don Bailey, retired from state police officer. Recommends an interview process. You need opportunity to question the applicant. The law is geared to not market to children. The state does not always enforce. Letter of good standing through LARA can be for a marihuana business or another business they may have.

Linda Slopesma: Develop a process flow.

**Adjournment: 7:12 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois MacLean  
Recording Secretary