

Whitewater Township Marihuana Committee

In-Person and VIA ZOOM

Minutes for Meeting

March 21, 2022

Call to order 6:03 p.m.

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

Set / Approve Agenda:

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: None

Public Comment: Linda Slopsema, Comparative information form from Kalkaska interview process and Leelanau, rubric and process flow. Recommend a hold of the applications.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Goss, second by Jacobson to approve the February 21, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reports/Presentations/Announcements/Comments/Correspondence:

New Business:

1. Application checklists: Discussion of verbiage change recommendations. State prequalification discussion for application and/or interview.

2. Interview questions: Hall spoke with Kalkaska and came up with some questions. Hall would like the questions vetted by the attorney to make sure all questions are legal. Is an interview even legal / acceptable?

Industrial zoned area vs. the Ag district.

Hall will be reviewing the application for completeness, then it will go to the Board, who will make the determination of approval. Will not be able to discuss / ask questions in a public meeting setting because of privacy. The Planning Commission will also be given the information for site plan review and/or special use.

Kalkaska does not have the application available on-line.

The Board is working on getting a scoring rubric from the attorney.

The Township is not currently taking applications.

Location is very important. The State will not make regulations on the location. Location is determined by the township.

The interview is a review of the application.

Discussion of the scoring rubric. There cannot be secrecy from the public or the applicant.

A denial would be presented with a letter explaining why they were denied.

Pre-interview questions by the ZA and interview questions by the Board. Can the board go into close session?

Primary concern is to find out if questions can even be asked.

3. Other topics the committee wishes to address. Vollmuth: What can you tell us about hemp and the new regulations on hemp and combining the cannabis and hemp regulation agencies? Hall: 2018 MI farm bill, hemp is hands off. What you can do is regulate the siting of buildings. Vollmuth read through the Executive Order signed by Whitmer. State level rules have changed – a processing thing on the state's end.

Flow chart: Is there a software for creating the flow chart? Mellor indicates, yes. Flow chart shows first steps, next steps and what steps happen concurrently, etc.

Does the applicant need approval from the Board before they can submit application for a special use permit. Approval contingent upon . . . when working on both processes concurrently. Once application has been determined to be complete and turned over to the Board, they should be able to apply for the special use permit. Question for the

attorney: can the applicant submit application to the Board and the PC at the same time? Application would need to be deemed by the ZA complete before a Special Use Permit would be accepted.

Flow Chart: Can we ask pre-interview questions?

Fill out the application for the board, once deemed complete they can make application for SPR from the PC.

Attorney question: they are processed in the order that they are deemed complete.

David will make the flow chart questions and get it to the Clerk and she will include with the packet.

Next meeting: Thursday April 21, 2022, 6 p.m. Agenda: Flow Chart.

Public Comment: Vicki Beam: Thank you.

Linda Slopsema: Very productive meeting. We don't have all the things in place. Communicate with the Board.

Denise Peltonen: Scoring rubric, additional points for addressing infrastructure. Would like hemp and cannabis to be indistinguishable visibly from the outside of the building. Co-location of grow and process.

Adjournment: 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois MacLean
Recording Secretary