

**Whitewater Township Planning Commission  
Minutes of 2/3/2010 Regular Meeting**

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Zakrajsek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members Present: Lyons, Boyd, Courtade, Mangus, Miller, Savage, Zakrajsek

Also Attending: Recording Secretary MacLean plus 5 others

Zoning Administrator absent, excused.

**Set/Adjust Agenda**

No adjustments to agenda

**Approval of 1/6/10 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Mangus: Verbiage on page two, Old Business, Sign Ordinance, paragraph 5, to include contacting the owner of the signs.

Motion by Boyd to accept minutes with the change, seconded by Savage.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

**Conflict of Interest: None declared**

**Public Comment: None**

**Open Public Hearing on Article 30 – Sign Regulations, at 7:08 p.m.**

The notice of public hearing was published in the Elk Rapids News on January 13, 2010. If approved this will be sent to the County Planning and then to the Township Board.

Page 122, section 30:12, is the information on Sign Review Board.

Mangus: Section 30.21 (A), feels that one square foot is unnecessarily restrictive for home decorative address and name signs. Discussion between members of the commission and audience concurs and it should be changed to four square feet.

Sandy Rennie, member of the public, states that any ordinance is taking away rights. Why restrict?

Boyd: Consistency. Using Rapid City as an example of what we do NOT want our community signage to look like, we've made guidelines.

Zakrajsek: This new ordinance is actually much less restrictive than the previous.

Sandy Rennie appreciates that this PC is supportive of businesses and their success.

Mangus: Section 30.26 (E), wants the verbiage included that the owner of the sign(s) will be contacted when sign removal takes place and held for seven days.

**Close Public Hearing at 7:27**

Motion by Boyd to approve Article 30-Sign Regulations with the two changes to send to Grand Traverse County and then to the Township Board, seconded by Courtade.

**Roll Call Vote, all approved, 7-0.**

**Reports:**

**Correspondence:** Planning and Zoning Essentials workshop, March 13, 2010.

**Zoning Administrator, Meyers: Not present.** Report attached.

**Road Committee, Miller:** The tribe has designated lots of roads as tribal roads which will afford federal dollars for road construction.

**Disaster Plan Committee and TC TALUS Representative, Meyers: Not present**

**Township Board Representative, Boyd:** Update on Emergency Service committee.

**Chair, Zakrajsek: None**

**Old Business:**

**1. Sign Ordinance**

**2. Sub-Committee Updates**

- a.) Agriculture – Lyons, Getting lots of feedback. A couple more meetings coming up.
- b.) Transportation – Miller, same crew as the Road Plan committee. Dealing with MDOT and the state. Will address private road ordinance. Next meeting Tuesday, 4pm.
- c.) Natural Resources/Environment/Recreation – Courtade, had one meeting. Mostly people vented. Another meeting Monday, February 8, at 7 pm.
- d.) Lot Size/Housing – Savage, had one meeting, next meeting scheduled for Monday, February 8, at 4 pm. Will be discussing soil types and private vs. public lands. Has an equalization map available for anyone to check out.
- e.) Village/Commercial/Industrial – Mangus, open format meeting held. Business owners were contacted. Business owners would like consistency. Mostly discussed Commercial and Industrial. Next meeting will focus on the Village.
- f.) Code Enforcement/Zoning Issues – Boyd, really comes after the code is set. What is considered a complaint? Procedures and notification procedures to be addressed.

**New Business**

**Temporary Structures – Motion by Boyd, seconded by Savage to table until next month, for Zoning Administrator’s presentation. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Public Comment:** None

**Continuing Education – Master Citizen Planner Presentation – Lois MacLean**  
Postponed until next meeting.

**Motion to adjourn at 8:12 pm** by Savage, seconded by Boyd. **Motion carried 6-0.**  
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Recording Secretary, Lois MacLean