

Meeting of the Windemere Planning Commission - August 18th, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Clair Strandlie. Others present were Planning Commission members Tom Albrecht, Dianna Sandstrom, Cindy Carlson, and Gary Pelton, Windemere Board Supervisors John Wesely and Heidi Kroening, Clerk Scott Danelski, and Andrew Kitzenberg. Absent were Windemere Board Supervisor Mark Dunaski and Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau.

AGENDA :

Chairman Strandlie called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Carlson, seconded by Sandstrom to approve the August 2020 Planning Commission meeting agenda as submitted. Motion passed, 4 Aye – 0 Nay, Pelton absent.

MEETING MINUTES :

The meeting minutes from the September 24th, 2019 Planning Commission meeting were read. Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Carlson to approve the September 24th, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed, 4 Aye – 0 Nay, Pelton absent.

The meeting minutes from the July 7th, 2020 Planning Commission meeting were read. Motion by Carlson, seconded by Sandstrom to approve the July 24th, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed, 4 Aye – 0 Nay, Pelton absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT :

Andrew Kitzenberg was present and stated he and his wife had just purchased property located at 91946 Brandt Road Sturgeon Lake, MN. Mr. Kitzenberg stated they would like to begin some construction projects on the property and wanted to understand the township's permitting process. The Planning Commission referred Mr. Kitzenberg to Windemere Township Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau along with his contact information.

ZONING DEPARTMENT REPORT :

Windemere Zoning Supervisor Heidi Kroening gave the zoning update. The Zoning Department has handled 104 permits thus far for the calendar year 2020 and has received 15 new inquiries since the last Planning Commission meeting. Genereau met with Windemere Zoning Supervisor Kroening and previous Windemere Zoning Administrator Phill White to have discussions regarding the current township Zoning Ordinance and how they can clean up some of the current ordinance's language; ordinances that need revisions are the placing of only 10 yards of material for shoreland restoration and grade & fill projects per year, the house-raising ordinance, and the blight ordinance.

Another area in the ordinance that needs some refinement is to look into how to enforce septic systems that are failing in the township. Kroening stated Genereau is beginning to work on cleaning up the blighted properties in the township and stated Genereau believes the township may have to offer some assistance via grants to help clean up the worst properties. Genereau would also like to have training sessions with all local contractors that complete work inside Windemere Township so they know exactly what is allowable for shoreland restoration and grade & fill permits within the township's ordinance in order to stay compliant. Lastly, Genereau recommended to the Windemere Board that permit costs should increase. After conducting some research, Windemere Township's fees for issuing permits are low compared to other townships.

OLD BUSINESS :

None.

At 6:51 PM Planning Commission member Gary Pelton began attending the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS :

Windemere Board Supervisor Heidi Kroening made comments that she had conversations with MN DNR Hydrologist Heidi Lindgren as well as Senator Jason Rarick regarding the continued high-water issue on Sturgeon Lake. Both Rarick and Lindgren stated they are still committed to help Windemere township residents with the situation, but again stated that the first step that needs to take place is a feasibility study.

Chairman Clair Strandlie made comments about the increased noise pollution this summer in Windemere Township; referencing the Palon Road UTV test track over the 2020 Memorial Day weekend and also the loud music heard every weekend late into the evenings on Island Lake.

Tom Albrecht made comments regarding the growing number of lots that have more than two camper trailers on individual lots in Windemere Township. Albrecht stated this has been a growing problem and would like to know what can be done to enforce the existing rule on the current ordinance.

Discussions began regarding VRBOs in Windemere Township. The Planning Commission stated there have been an increasing number of complaints about VRBOs in the township. Also, the number of VRBOs in the township is steadily increasing.

The Planning Commission is requesting the Windemere Board Supervisors to give them direction on how the township would like the issues listed above addressed.

Windemere Zoning Supervisor Kroening requested the Planning Commission put together a list of the 2 or 3 critical items that the Planning Commission believe need to be addressed first so the Board of Supervisors can begin working on updating the township's ordinance. Kroening stated she would only like the Board to concentrate on a couple of issues at a time, otherwise the work that needs to get done may not be completed efficiently. Kroening also stated that there may be a need for the township to hire an Assistant Zoning Administrator to help deal with all of the current zoning issues.

ADJOURN :

Motion made by Albrecht, seconded by Sandstrom to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM.

Motion passed, 5 Aye – 0 Nay

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

APPROVED :

Scott Danelski, Clerk

Clair Strandlie, Chairman