TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Torch Lake Township

Planning Commission Meeting

Community Service Building

APPROV ED Minutes WITH CHANGES 5-0

February 11, 2020

**Present:**  Kulka, Carleton, Stridiron, Shoemaker, Petersen, Jorgensen

**Absent:**  Hawkins

**Others:**    Graber

**Audience:**  0

**Recording Secretary:** J. Petersen

**1.**    **Call to Order Regular Meeting:**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm by Kulka.

**2. Public Commentary**

Kulka asked for public commentary and there was none

**3. Consideration of Agenda**

Motion by Shoemaker to approve the agenda, motion seconded by Jorgensen. Kulka called for further discussion and vote; passing 6/0.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Corrections as follows: 6A Permit #2019-52 should be #2019-63; Add “Torch Lake” after “the North end” on item 6A; Vote counts for 8B and 12 should be 6/0 NOT 5/0.; Add “per the MTA manual, which I’ve read.” as a quote from Kulka on item 10B.

Petersen made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes from January 14, 2020 with changes. Shoemaker seconded the motion, Kulka called for discussion and a vote; passing 6/0.

**5. On-Going Reports**

**5A Zoning Administrator’s Report**

Graber distributed an updated *Checklist for January 2020* and TLT 2020 Land Use Permits spreadsheet through Permit #2020-03, Land Division App # (none) and ZBA Appeals ZBA 2020-1. Violations, civil infractions, enforcement, court cases, pending court cases, complaints, on-going permit status, and current zoning applications were summarized. Graber informed commissioners that 31 Scoops will be pursuing expanding its services to possibly spirit tasting and kayak rental.

**6B PC Representative on ZBA Report**

Shoemaker informed the group there was no meeting last month and tomorrow night the ZBA will hear a variance request

**6C TLT Board Representative on PC Report**

Petersen summarized the activities of the board; Millar has left Swogger,BRUCE & MILLAR AND HAS JOINED THE LAW FIRM OF PARKER, HARVEY; TLT is looking for a new township planner; ALS certification should be complete this week, and the board is working on 2020 budgets.

**6. Correspondence, Meetings, Training Announcements**

None

**7. Unfinished Business**

**7A Residential Lighting (Impact on dark sky)**

Graber distributed Chapter II General Provisions “Version 2 DRAFT”. Carleton distributed her comments previously emailed to the commissioners and the commissioners discussed an exemption for agricultural use. The commissioners deliberated the issue, discussing many ideas and questions. Graber walked the commissioners through by reading section by section so as to agree for the next draft. Carleton made a motion to omit “no colored lights shall be used in any location” and add “permanent” after “There shall be no” it item E. Motion seconded by Stridiron, Kulka asked for discussion and vote 5/1 motion carried. (Jorgensen NAY) The commissioners discussed the American Flag exemption in detail. Shoemaker read the sign ordinance pertaining to lighting to the commissioners to assure this new ordinance doesn’t conflict with the current sign ordinance and suggested adding in the new ordinance that lighting shall comply with the rules of the sign ordinance. The group decided to omit #F and change “American Flag” to “USA Flag” Graber will edit version 2 and prepare version 3 with all discussed changes and schedule a public hearing. Petersen made a motion for Graber to schedule public hearing and revise version 2 with the following: Add Intent to the first sentence; Eliminate F, # D omit “residential lighting”; #E add “permanent” and eliminate *No color lights* sentence. Seconded by Shoemaker, Kulka called for discussion and vote; 6/0 motion carried.

**8. New Business - NONE**

**9. Concerns of the Planning Commission**

**9A. Concerns of the PC Chair -** Kulka discussed that the board is looking for a new consultant/planner. Kulka received FAA regulations for airport, signed, copied, filed and gave them to Graber.

**9B. Concerns of PC Members** **-** Jorgensen asked if the Master Plan training scheduled for May will be rescheduled when we have a new consultant/planner Kulka stated yes. Graber has been compiling master plans from neighboring townships and has available for review. Stridiron asked if PC should send out another questionnaire (survey) to the township residents because things are/have changed. Graber stated the questionnaire was just done 3 years ago, and the intent is to review every five years (2more years).

Jorgensen stated the master plan was costly and a long process, she stated she would like to wait the two additional years until the master plan is 5 years old to make changes and do surveys - she also stated the master plan should have much more input from the Planning Commission.

**10. Public Commentary**

Kulka called for public comments and none was given.

**11.**  **Adjournment**

With nothing further, a motion was made by Petersen to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Kulka called for further discussion and vote passing 6/0.