

Houghton County Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

5th Floor Conference room, Courthouse

Tuesday October 17th, 2023 4:00 PM

1. Call to Order at 4:08
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call: Present: John Larson-Chair, Ron Kilpela – Vice Chair, Timothy Sears – Secretary, H. Schmidt, Ben Larson – County Administrator, Joel Keranen – County Commissioner, Allan Aho, Steve Aho
Absent: excused Mike Erickson
4. Public Comments: None.
5. Agenda: No additions or changes. Motion by T Sears, second – A Aho. All approved.
6. Approval of Minutes of September 19th – motion by R Kilpela, second by A Aho. All approved.
7. Correspondence: None
8. Old Business : None
9. Working Groups
Commissioners meeting review: J Keranen - expressed his support for the progress the planning commission has been making with new members

Planning commissioner reports: H Schmidt - discussed his testimony regarding the development of expanded wilderness area in Ontonagon County, B Larson expressed that most of the area counties are opposed to this due to the restrictions that would pose on potential future copper mining

Ben Larson reported on meeting with the Keweenaw Trails Service with Planning Commissioner Mike Erickson and Board of Commission Chairman Tom Tikkanen recently. This facility is heading towards completion, and the group wants to keep this on the front burner for the community. They would like to meet with the Recreation Authority, and they have a need for an additional \$300,000 to complete their project. They have invested \$350,000 so far in materials and in-kind labor. This red building is on the same road as the Swedetown Trails facility in Calumet Township. They are working on financing the remaining funds to get the building completed, and this will replace the current facility which is in Mohawk, has no heat, and a very limited space to thaw the machines and do maintenance on them.

10. New business

Master Plan Review - feedback from the various members of the planning commission submitted for update compilation

-Recreation plan – feedback from various members of the planning commission submitted for compilation and update

-KEDA economic development plan review - Jeff Ratcliff presented and received feedback regarding from the planning commission members. He will be accepting further feedback and recommendations

11. Public comments – none
12. Next meeting: December 5, 2023.
13. Adjournment: Motion by R Kilpela, second A Aho. All Approved

Respectfully submitted

Timothy T Sears -Secretary