

Houghton County Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference room, Courthouse

Tuesday September 19th, 2023 4:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Call to order at 4:01 Present: John Larson-chair, Timothy Sears – secretary, H. Schmidt, Ben Larson – county controller, Joel Karanen – county commissioner, Allan Aho, Mike Erickson, Steve Aho

Absent: excused Ron Kilpela – Vice Chair

2. Public Comments: None.
3. Agenda: No additions or changes. Motion by T Sears, second – H Schmidt. All approved.
4. Approval of Minutes of August 2023 – motion by A Aho, second by H Schmidt. All approved.
5. Correspondence: Ben Larsen reported that the Douglas Houghton Falls is in the process by the DNR a becoming either a state by way or state park and to date \$650,000 has been invested in development.
6. Old Business : None
7. Working Groups

-- Solid Waste and Recycling – H Schmidt: changing solid waste plan to material management plan. Efforts for multiple county or UP wide recycling coordination via WUPPDR. County Transfer station has limited recycling to Wednesdays due to slow downs with Waste Management and with the MRF Marquette Recycling Facility. These 2 parties are working on improvement for the bins, hauling and MRF processing. There also has been irresponsible recycling activities including attempts to dispose of paint cans in the recycling bin. Request was made for members of the copper Country recycling initiative to make members available for monitoring recycling drop-off at the county transfer station on Wednesdays

Torch Lake – H Schmidt - EGLE will be holding a discussion at the Loading Zone on September 21st at noon to discuss ongoing state testing

--public health -- Sears – nothing pertaining to Planning

-- Recreation and Tourism – Hancock to Lake Linden trail repair work to proceed and hope to complete the work and open this trail before winter

--Commissioner Meeting Recap – J Karanen - 5 applications for the 2 open planning commission seats were entertained and appointments by the County Commissioners made of Mike Erickson and Steve Aho

--recreation and tourism - update on the trail progress given

8. New Business – Houghton County Planning Commissioners member : Steve Aho - appointed to replace Diane St Amour. He has an education background in special education and former school principal and is currently working for Moyle in property development. Mike Erickson appointed to replace Evan McDonald and has a background and environmental engineering. Currently working for

environmental engineering firm Arcadis. Horst Schmidt has decided to resigned from the planning commission at the end of December of 2023

- Master Plan Update – B. Larson provided all members paper copies of the master plan for revisions and the tentative plan will be for submission of written recommendations to be compiled in hopes of completing a tentative update of the master planned for distribution within the next 1-2 months.

-Recreation plan - paper copies provided to all members for review and revisions to be compiled in hopes of updating the recreation plan along the same time table has the master plan

- written recommendations for revisions of both plans requested be submitted directly to Ben Larson for compilation of recommendations by October 10th approximately 1 week prior to the next planning commission meeting scheduled for October 17th, 2023.

9. Next Meeting: October 17th, 2023

10. Adjournment: Motion by A Aho, second by T Sears. All approved. Adjourned at 4:50 PM

Respectfully submitted

Timothy T Sears -Secretary