

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 - 7:30pm
121 Judd Street with Option to Attend Remotely

Present: Acting Chair Scott Spisak, Commissioners Gerry Mrosla (Zoom), Tim Casey, Ed Sanderson, Kristina Smitten, Anna Hagstrom, Jennifer Henry (Zoom)

Absent: None

Public: Lon Pardun, Wendy Ward, Roger Lyle, Kevin Nyenhuis

Acting Chair Spisak called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm, reviewed the agenda, and started discussion of the first item.

Discuss Department of Natural Resources Feedback on Zoning Code

Spisak reported that the Planning Commission has been working on revisions to the zoning code for several years. When a draft was sent to the DNR for approval in late 2021 the agency sent back extensive comments, in part because the city hadn't previously incorporated state-mandated regulatory changes. Many of the changes have to do with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which gives the DNR enforcement authority. The act also contains many of the definitions the DNR has asked the city to insert or update. Spisak shared a document summarizing how Scandia, May Township and other St. Croix River communities have implemented the rules. Many have adopted Washington County's model ordinance by reference. Others have incorporated the regulations into their code in the river overlay.

The goal is to review the requirements and comments from the DNR, then decide whether and how to incorporate them into the code. To minimize impacts on other districts, the city could create a section in the overlay districts for these definitions, or adopt the county's model ordinance by reference.

The commission reviewed the DNR's comments pertaining to definitions, and will continue their review at the next meeting. They developed several questions and requests for the DNR. Spisak and Assistant Clerk Dammann will draft a letter.

Smitten suggested inviting a representative from the DNR to talk with the commission in April. She also voiced appreciation for the DNR's effort in reviewing the code, and for their suggestions.

Confirm 2022 Work Plan

The commission reviewed the priorities from the January meeting. The assistant clerk will add: “Major Project – Cell Tower Site and Application Review,” and integrate these priorities into the previous work plan document.

New and Old Business

- Vinco Cell Tower Status Update

Smitten reported that the committee had narrowed down the options to one site for further review. They plan on having a public meeting in mid-March, contingent on forthcoming details from Vinco, to show the public how they chose the site based on the information they had. Commissioner Hagstrom suggested giving background on who’s on the committee and where this open house falls in the larger process. The assistant clerk will check with the clerk on whether we need to notice a possible quorum.

- Pending MN Legislation

The commission discussed whether to take a position on HF 3256, which the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities had flagged as preempting local control. The commission decided that each commissioner could, if they wish, share thoughts with city staff before the next council meeting or contact legislators individually.

Approval of January Minutes

Smitten moved and Casey seconded approval of the minutes of the January 25, 2022 City of Marine on St. Croix Planning Commission meeting as drafted. Roll call vote: Henry — Aye; Mrosla — Aye; Hagstrom — Aye; Smitten — Aye; Sanderson — Aye; Casey — Aye; Spisak — Aye. Motion approved unanimously.

Adjournment

The commission reached a consensus to start the March meeting at 7:00 pm if Vinco submits a cell tower application.

Smitten moved and Sanderson seconded to adjourn at 9:35 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Suzanne Dammann, Assistant City Clerk