

Porter Township  
Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 1, 2021

**Start Time :** Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

**Members Present:** Doug Noble, Jr., Heather Smith, Andrew Nesbitt, David Kindt, Bob Angle, Tonya Willis, John Miller, Steve Cornish, Tim Seppala.

**Members Absent:** none

**Zoning Administrator :** Rich McGrew, present.

**Additions to Agenda :** Motion by Heather Smith to accept the agenda as written, second by Andy Nesbitt, motion passes. Agenda accepted as written.

**Approval of Minutes :** John Miller motions to approve the November Regular Meeting Minutes as written, Tim Seppala seconds. November Regular Meeting Minutes approved as written.

**Correspondence :** Tim Seppala read two letter in opposition to the ordinance. The theme was to give consideration to those who own these properties.

**Citizens Comments :** There were several people in the audience who were there to vocalize their input regarding discussion on the short term rental ordinance under consideration. The three parties present voiced opposition regarding the nuisance portion of the original ordinance. It should be noted that two of the parties present do not live in the township.

**Board Report :** Andy Nesbitt, board liaison, indicated that the main topic was the recreational marijuana ordinance adoption, and that they are requesting an ordinance from the planning commission to put forth a proposal on short term rentals and that it should pertain to a nuisance ordinance from a policing standpoint.

**Old Business :**

**A. Short term rental Ordinance**

There was a great amount of discussion on the newer, simplified version of the original ordinance. The present state of the short term rental ordinance at the state level was also discussed. Currently it has passed the House of Representatives. There was dialogue with citizens present and the planning commission regarding many points. The point was raised that this is discriminatory towards rental owners. If we are to police nuisances, then we should police all nuisances. The

conclusion raised was that there needs to be an overall nuisance ordinance for at a minimum lake residential. The planning commission went through line by line. The board will not act upon this in December. They want to review it first.

John Miller motions to recommend to the township board the proposal on short term rentals ordinance as edited, Andy Nesbitt seconds. Roll call vote : Unanimous, 9, yes, 0, no. Motion passes.

**New Business :**

- A. Solar Farms are on the horizon. Tabled for next month.
- B. Calendar dates : June 29th instead of July 6th.
- C. Planning Commission officers : Keep the same.

**Zoning Administrator report:** No report.

**ZBOA Report :** Bob Angle, present, a shed violating a side variance on Gravel Lake. The shed is too large.

**Adjournment :** John Miller motions to adjourn, Tonya Willis seconds, meeting adjourned at 9:00.

**Next Meeting:** January 5, 2022