

Whitefish Township Planning Commission Minutes Special Meeting June 18, 2025

- **Special Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Robert Hughes at 7:01 pm.**

- **Role call:** Robert Hughes, Glenn Gomery (BoT Liaison,) Carol Bowden, Present.
Don Mandeville, Lynda Ferguson, Absent.

- 8 public attendees present.

- **Minutes:** Motion by Gomery to approve the Minutes of June 4th. 2nd by Bowden. Discussion: None. All in Favor: Three Ayes, Zero Nays. Motion carried.

- **Public Comment:** Resident and Applicant Bryan Bain stated that he has submitted an Application for Special Land Use Approval to the zoning administrator, and he understands his application is on the agenda for Initial Review by the planning commission at this meeting. He read aloud three letters of support that are included in his application documents. He recounted from his notes the dates and times and contact person(s) in his communications since March with various Chippewa County departments including the Sherriff's Department, and the DNR, the Coast Guard, and Whitefish Township, seeking to achieve all required licensing and approvals for the intended operation of Sonny's Tahquamanon River Boat Rentals - a pontoon boat, jet ski, and skiff boat rental business - from his parcel # 016-610-014-00, 33615 W Tahqua Trail, (Lot 14, Bow-Cla-Bon Plat of Tahquamanon River, within Recreational Forest Zoning District, in the area known as Snug Harbor.) He stated that on March 17th he spoke with Clerk Fred Roach by phoning the township offices, describing his plans and asking if there were any township licensing or permitting requirements, and being told no township approval was required. He stated: "That's what's brought this here and it was an oversight on my part not making any further inquiries to the township, specifically, planning and zoning. Until Mr. West met me at the property on June 4th I was unaware that special approval by the planning commission is required." He then answered inquiries from several commissioners.

- Residents and Applicants Timothy and Stephanie Domeier spoke, detailing plans to restart the operation of Shivering Timbers Camp, describing its historical past, and underway efforts to revive the campground, including upgrades to its infrastructure, sites, and such. He stated that he and family are residents since 2024 and will be operating Shivering Timbers Camp at their parcel on Timberlost Road as owners on site. Resident Brian Wachter stated that he is a neighbor to the Domeiers and has no objections to the campground being put back into operation.

- **Old Business:**

- Commissioners reviewed the Domeier's petition by for a zoning district map amendment first introduced at the June 4th meeting and already scheduled for a public hearing September 17th. No action taken.

- **New Business:**

- Commissioners reviewed the Sluis Application for Special Land Use Approval – Short-Term Rental of existing guest house, Parcel 16 373 008 00 2152 N Spring Trail, off grid, Recreational Forest Zoning District, Tahquamanon river frontage, owner occupied parcel. Applicant Rod Sluis was present and answered questions from the commissioners. Motion by Gomery, 2nd by Bowden to schedule a special meeting and public hearing for this application for Wednesday August 6th at 7 pm. Discussion: None. Roll call vote: Gomery, Yes. Bowden, Yes. Hughes, Abstain. Motion carried.

- Commissioners reviewed the Bain Application for Special Land Use Approval to operate a marina on his parcel # 016-610-014-00, 33615 W Tahqua Trail, (Lot 14, Bow-Cla-Bon Plat of Tahquamanon River, within Recreational Forest Zoning District, in the area known as. Applicant Bryan Bain was present and answered questions from the commissioners. Motion by Gomery, 2nd by Bowden to schedule a special meeting and public hearing for this application for Wednesday August 6th at 7 pm. Discussion: None. Roll call vote: Gomery, Yes. Bowden, Yes. Hughes, Yes. Motion carried.

- Commissioners reviewed the Steuer Application for Special Land Use Approval – Short-Term Rental of existing house, Parcel 016 133 016 00 33212 West North Rd. Recreational Forest Zoning District. Applicant Kim Steuer was present and answered questions from the commissioners. Motion by Gomery, 2nd by Bowden to schedule a special meeting and public hearing for this application for Wednesday August 6th at 7 pm. Discussion: None. Roll call vote: Gomery, Yes. Bowden, Yes. Hughes, Abstain. Motion carried.

- Motion by Hughes to adjourn, 2nd by Bowden. All in Favor: Three Ayes, Zero Nays, Motion carried.

Special Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Approval Signatures: