

Village of Bear Lake
Unapproved Meeting Minutes September 12, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:06 by President Jeanne Walsh-Vission
Present: John Virga, Barb Farfsing, Shelly Lynnes, Jeanne Walsh-Vission

Guests: in person – Hannah Hodge
on phone – none

Motion to approve Agenda. Motion Carried.
Motion to approve August 2023 meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

Old Business:

Spark Grant – Lynnes reported no information available yet.

Zoning Ordinance – We need a signed copy of Zoning Ordinance. Barb and Shelly will each check to see if they have a copy and Shelly to follow up with Mike Szokola to see if he has a copy.

Blight Ordinance – A copy or link to the Blight Ordinance were distributed and all PC Members were asked to review the Village Blight Ordinance 2015.01 (shown on old and new Village website) and document suggested revisions for discussion at the next PC meeting.

In terms of potential attorney fees related to blight, Barb confirmed with Rick Farfsing that CABA funds would be available to assist with this purpose.

Food Truck Permits and Fees – Barb and Shelly will bring what they have to the Oct meeting. Jeanne to send out packet of all Food Truck info the Village has and asked PC members to review it for the next meeting so discussion can be held on any suggested revisions and how to best approach this issue with the Promoters. Once a decision is made by PC, the issue will need to be discussed with the new Trustees as after a Motion to proceed with this Ordinance was passed twice by the prior VC (May 2021 and June 2021), the issue was tabled at the July 2022 VC meeting for an undocumented reason.

Funding and Donation Partnership – Grant Match Account – Rick Farfsing will put a letter together asking Triginta Club and the Promoters if they would be interested in partnering with the Village on fundraising/soliciting donations for agreed upon projects, e.g. Hopkins Park improvements, Bike/Skate Park. The proceeds from this fundraising partnership would be deposited by the Village into an account to be used for matching funds for Grants that the Village would submit for the agreed upon projects.

PC members were asked to bring a “Wish List” to the next PC meeting of projects we would like to submit grants for that Triginta and Promoters may be interested in partnering with the Village on fundraising. Jeanne to forward this on to Rick for inclusion in letter. The letter and Wish List would be submitted to the VC for prior approval.

Master Plan Update – Jeanne will call Jessica Sorenson at Manistee County Planning to see **where** they are with the Village Master Plan. Barb and Shelly said the VC had approved the plan as is without changes being needed.

New Business:

Motion to accept Hanna Hodge on the Planning Commission. Motion Carried. This now goes to the Village Council for approval.

Blight and Zoning on Monthly Agenda and PC Update VC Monthly – Sample monthly reports for MCPD to submit to the Village regarding Code Enforcement and Zoning activity were distributed. The Code Enforcement reports follows the steps in the VBL Blight Ordinance. Both reports also will permit the Village to track income from Zoning and Blight enforcement. The MCPD contact will be at the October VC meeting to discuss and answer questions regarding renewal of the Zoning and Code Enforcement contract for 3 years. The PC request that the PC have access to the MCPD Google drive

to monitor Code Enforcement and Zoning activity was denied. PC and VC will each get a monthly report from Manistee County Planner on items that have taken place from the previous month. The PC report for Blight will be redacted leaving out taxpayer names and addresses only showing street names.

Short Term Rental Ordinance – Discussion was held on the need for an Ordinance to cover issues related to Short Terms Rentals (STR). Handouts of existing STR Ordinances and Policies for Arcadia and Onekama were distributed for members to review and highlight the issues most important for the Village to include in an Ordinance. Further discussion will be held at October PC meeting.

Golf Cart Ordinance – Handout of state law governing this was distributed and discussion was held. Members agreed that this issue does not merit regulation at this time.

Manistee County Community Fund Grant Brochure – Deadline to apply is October 1. Discussion was held on the need for a playground for young children and also the possibility of a combined bike/skateboard park like the one at Van Riper State Park in Champion MI.

Monitoring Applicable Grants- Designate VC or PC member to monitor grants and then report to VC and PC – Part of Community Enrichment Committee of VC? Tabled for October meeting.

Capital Improvement Process – Handout distributed showing how other communities complete Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) budgets and allocation of funds budgets for each item. Tabled until October meeting

Next meeting October 10, 2023 6 PM

Between Meeting Tasks (see above) and Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Zoning Ordinance Signed Copy - Barb and Shelly
- Blight Ordinance Review – All Members
- Food Truck Permits and Fees Review– All Members
- Funding and Donation Partnership – Rick Farfsing draft of proposed letter for Triginta and Promoters about partnering on a Grant Match Fund. All PC Members to have a “Wish List” of potential projects to partner with them on fundraising/donations.
- Master Plan Update - Jeanne
- Update on MCPD Contract and Monthly Blight and Zoning Reports – Shelly
- Short Term Rental Ordinance – All members to review Arcadia and Onekama sample Ordinances/Policies distributed and highlight the issues most important for the Village to include in an Ordinance.
- Minger Grant - Bike/Skateboard Park
- Assign a Point Person for Grant Review and Communication to PC and VC
- Capital Improvement Process

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Farfsing, Secretary VBL PC