# Keweenaw County Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes January 26, 2016

Keweenaw County Courthouse 6:30 PM

Roll Call: Jon Soper, Chair John Parsons Vice Chair

Richard Schaefer, Member Tom Hall, Member

Steve Siira, Member Ned Huwatschek, Member

Ray Chase, Commissioner

Ann Gasperich Zoning Administrator

The entire 7 Member quorum is present, meeting was appropriately posted.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

**M/S Ray/Tom** to approve the agenda with the annual reading of the bylaws and conflict of interest.

**M/S Ray/Steve** to approve minutes of the regular meeting on December 8, 2015 meeting

Guests: Bill Eddy, Jan Cole & Richard Polatta

Public Comment – Richard Polatta asked the Board if they were aware of any regulations that may limit the numbers or percent of acerage within the county that can be tax exempt.

The Chairman read aloud the by-laws and the conflict of interest policy.

### **Unfinished Business**

Ann presented updates on the Blueprint for Tomorrow meetings with the townships. Houghton and Sherman are almost complete. They will have one more meeting when the recommended changes to the plan are ready and the map is closer.

Ann has started corrections for the map changes – fixing streets and boundry lines where appropriate. She mentioned that some townships would like to see more Country Estate and other more Agriculture.

Single Family Homes was postponed

#### **New Business**

CEP Zoning for Conservancy land was discussed and the ordinance: **4.3.6 Conservation Environmental Protection District**: The Conservation Environmental Protection District (CEP) has been created to account for lands designated as part of an open space system to preserve total environmental character, particularly in connection with conserving significant natural resource characteristics found within the county and encouraging multiple use recreation and forest activities where appropriate. This district, therefore, has been developed for conserving land areas which are:

- Subject to periodic flooding.
- To be kept open to preserve unique ecosystems and endangered species, i.e. wetlands.
- To be kept open to protect sources of water supplies, i.e., aquifer recharge, discharge, and potential water impoundment areas.
- To protect scenic viewsheds that define the wilderness and waterfront beauty of the county.
- To be kept open from development because of unsuitable and unstable soil conditions.
- To be kept open for general conservation purposes such as the preservation of hydrologic functions of adjacent tributary stream land areas and the preservation of timber resource areas.

Lands include those that are currently or are soon to be held in conservancy ownership, public lands (or soon to be) that have been identified for preservation and compatible recreation, undevelopable coastline where preservation is in the best public interest, and those lands where owner intention has indicated future conservation efforts.

## CEP Zoning for Conservancy Deed/Restrictions:

**Conservation Easement**: The grant of a property right requiring that the described land will remain in its existing natural state in perpetuity. Also means that term as defined in Section 2140 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, P.A. 451 of 1994 when applied to a cluster development or open space development as provided in Section 10.12.31.

## The Zoning Administrator's Report

Do to time constraints, Ann reminded the Commission of her annual report to the County Board of Commissioners.

The following meeting schedule was set.

Feb 23

March 29

April 26

May 31

June 28

August 30

September 27

October 25

December 6.

# Report from the ZBA -

- a. Set backs requirements from the waterfront to reflect block by block average with a 20' minimum in RS1:
- b. Maintain view scapes in the next revision; and
- c. CEP for all property going into a non-profit tax exempt status

Final Public Comments -The Commission asked Ann to set up a meeting with GMO.

Commission Final Comments – there were none Next regular meeting February 23, 2016 6:30 PM **M/S Ray & Steve** to Adjourn at 7:54 PM