

**Town of Duluth
Planning Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Jo Thompson.

Present: Jo Thompson, Wayne Dahlberg, John Schifsky, Jerry Hauge, Larry Zanko, and Liz Strohmayer.

Absent: Dave Edblom.

Also present: Rolf Carlson, Town Board liaison to the Commission.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes were approved with the following corrections: a spelling error, correction of lot sizes from 2,000 sq ft to 20,000 sq ft, and clarification of the subject of a sentence.

New Business

None.

Director's Report

Sue was not present, so Jo reported that the Ordinance changes the Commission had recommended to the Town Board had been approved with some changes as outlined by Sue at the September Commission meeting.

Beth said the Amendment to the Ordinance will be posted to the website and distributed to Commission members. On the copy of the Ordinance on the website, she will insert text blocks referring to the amendment where the Ordinance is changed by the amendment. This will alert readers to changes without replacing the Ordinance and requiring new indexing and page numbering. It was decided to postpone incorporating the amendments into the full Ordinance until after the CLUP update is completed in case it results in additional changes.

Jo said that the Town has been assigned new TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) standards for sediments for the French and Sucker Rivers. The MPCA just named Duluth Township as being a permitted discharger into the French River because we have Town roads within the watershed. The amount of sediment the Town roads are allowed to contribute is extremely stringent and may not be realistically possible to meet. She and Dave Mount plan to meet with the MPCA to get some clarification.

Wayne said that the Town is responsible for our roads in the Township. Yet, St Louis County has at least 90% of the roads and ditches in the Town and is not under this program.

Jo said that was true – St Louis County is responsible for their roads, but they don't have to meet the standards the Town must meet nor do they have reporting responsibilities. They are an MS4 only within the City of Duluth. Jo said that she and others have made those comments to the MPCA, but the situation has not changed. The MPCA is currently accepting comments only on the French River portion of the plan.

Jo said that the regular November Commission meeting is on Thanksgiving. There is a variance request for the Scenic Café. They need a variance from the road setback for an addition to their entryway. They would like to be able to do the work over Thanksgiving, so if possible, they would like to have the variance heard before then. The Commission agreed that it was doable and they scheduled the November meeting for Thursday November 15th to accommodate the request.

Old Business

None.

Concerns from the Audience

None.

John reminded the Commission about an upcoming presentation On November 3rd at 7 pm by the Arts and Heritage Group about the 1918 fire and how it affected the Township. Don McTavish also said that there would be an article in the Newsletter on the subject.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52.