

**Town of Duluth  
Planning Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 26, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair, Liz Strohmayr.

Present: Liz Strohmayr, Wayne Dahlberg, Jerry Hauge, Larry Zanko, Dave Edblom, Pam West and Angela Wilson.

Absent: No one.

Also present: Sue Lawson, Planning Director and Mike Kahl, Town Board liaison to the Planning Commission.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes from August 22, 2019 were approved as presented.

**Director's Report**

Sue said that the owners of the short-term rental on West Knife River Road have indicated that they will be applying for a conditional use permit for the rental. The minimum notification area for a conditional use is one-quarter mile.

There was some discussion of extending that because of the large lot sizes in the area, but the Commission agreed that a one-quarter mile notification area would be adequate.

Sue said that the hearing for the appeal of the Planning Director's decision on whether or not the applicant had an adequate lot size for a short-term rental needed to be rescheduled. The Commission agreed to meet Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 for the hearing.

The Schulz appeal to the Minnesota Supreme Court Appeal regarding the State Appeals Court decision regarding the Bille variance matter was heard on September 5. They have 90 days to decide.

Sue reported that the Community Steering Group for the 2030 Comprehensive Land Use Plan met last week and agreed on a draft for land use goals and policies.

Angela said that Two Harbors taxes short-term rentals like any other hotel. They require the owner, or the owner's agent, be available 24 hours a day and able to be at the rental within a certain amount of time. It seemed very logical and common sense to her. It might be a good model to look at.

Sue said that the Town regulates short-term rentals through land use, not licensing. The Town Board put together the requirements we currently have for short-term rentals, that they have at least a 2-acre lot size with 50 ft setbacks, have someone who can respond within 30 minutes, etc.

Mike Kahl said that there have been a lot of dog complaints to the Board recently. The Board has imposed fines on owners. The Board is also considering finding someone with more expertise on roads to consult with. They are also experimenting with putting chloride on the roads every other year instead of every year.

Sue said that there will be a hearing on St Louis County's new short-term rental regulations on October 10 in Virginia.

**Concerns from the Audience**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56.