

TOWN OF BASS LAKE
SAWYER COUNTY
PLANNING COMMITTEE & BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Thursday, September 1, 2011
MINUTES

Chairperson Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Members Present: Chairman Mark Olson, Phil Nies, Dorothy “Doc” Brueggen, Dan Grothe, Martha DeLong, Steve Friendshuh and Mark Laustrup. Members Absent: Brian Bisonette.

Town Clerk Warshawsky affirmed agenda was posted in compliance with open meetings law.

Motion by Brueggen, seconded to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes of the August 4, 2011 regular meeting were presented to the committee. Laustrup had a few changes. Discussion followed. Motion by Laustrup, seconded by Grothe to approve minutes with changes. Motion carried.

Chairperson Olson reported that correspondence was received from Sawyer County Zoning approving the variance application for Laureen and James Hansen. Olson said that we were incorrect limiting to 1,500 sq. ft. of habitable space. 1,500 sq. ft. is the footprint; habitable space can't exceed 3,000 sq. ft. Olson presented the variance approval for Hansen. The County allowed everything as long as he doesn't exceed 26 ft. in height and needs to have an approved mitigation plan. Also, the front deck can't exceed 4' in width. They allowed the addition and limited the deck to an entrance deck.

ZONING:

1. Variance Application –Timothy Barnett for the construction of a 24' x 28' (26' x 30' with eaves) detached garage located 21.5" from the centerline of a private access easement. Variance is requested as Section 4.25(6), Sawyer County Zoning Ordinance, would require the prior granting of a variance for any structure located closer than 30' from the centerline of a private access easement. Chairperson Olson presented the variance application. 8 letters were sent, 4 were returned. There were no objections and no comments. The owner was present and made a presentation. Barnett said he has had the property since 1990. Nies clarified that the entry would be from the driveway and not the access road or the road from Norwood Haven. Barnett said that he is asking for a 6' variance. He doesn't want to move it back because the top 50% of the hill is all trees. Grothe said that 3 trees are rotten. Barnett said he is aware 1 is rotten. Barnett does not want to lose the canopy, which borders Norwood Haven. He said he tried to minimize the variance and to build in compliance you would need to remove trees, making a mess of the property and increasing the visibility and dig into the hill at great expense for a much more visible structure. Discussion followed. Nies asked Barnett if he is providing the access road why not move it? Barnett answered that the road has been there for 90 years and you would have to build a road. Barnett has the original boundary survey and does not have a CSM. Nies said when the County was talking about 20 ft. and 30 ft. access, the purpose was to allow for trucks, etc. and the trucks are getting larger. Laustrup asked why Barnett couldn't put the garage in front of the house. Barnett said it messes up the scenic beauty. Nies suggested putting it where he parks his car. Friendshuh asked if Zoning had been out there. Barnett said there are yellow flags. They flagged out the utilities and the yellow flags say zoning. Friendshuh said he didn't measure but by eye and it's 15 ft to the big oak. Barnett said his builder and Zoning said

he's going to lose that tree. Friendshuh suggested taking the big oak out and sliding the garage toward the house and accessing like he wants to with 7 courses of block. Barnett replied that he would be taking out a whole swath of trees, changing the whole canopy. Discussion followed. Friendshuh asked what the hardship is. Barnett replied that digging out the hill would be a mess. Friendshuh said he does it all the time. Barnett said he would lose the canopy. Discussion followed. Friendshuh suggested moving it 15 ft. away and sliding it. Barnett said it would change the nature of the lot. Barnett the purpose of the 30ft. setback is safety and his variance has no impact on safety. Discussion followed. Olson asked if Barnett looked at adding on to the existing garage. Barnett said he had talked about stacking it. Laustrup asked what he is using his existing garage for. Barnett said his car and snowmobile, but he can't fit anything in. Discussion followed. Friendshuh said his personal preference is to grant the variance, but the trees are not a hardship. Discussion followed. Olson said we have to protect the neighbors. Friendshuh asked if we pass this, what kind of precedence are we setting? Olson asked if mitigation was addressed. Barnett said he put in flags with zoning. Olson said he wanted to make sure it was addressed. Discussion followed. Laustrup said it is not an impediment to the access road. Nies said if approved, he wants the stipulation that the garage door comes off the existing driveway not the easement road. Motion by Friendshuh, seconded by DeLong to approve. Olson abstaining. Motion Carried.

Findings of fact: There would be no change in the use in the zone district, it would not be damaging to the rights of others or property values and it would be due to special conditions unique to the property.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Projects
 - a) Olson reported that the project is done for this year. Next year, we will paint or stain and maybe add more woodchips. DeLong and Olson recommended more woodchips. Nies said he would talk to Kari Aderman.
 - b) Nies reported that Mike Niebert will start the Grindstone Shallows garage repair project next week.
2. Nies reported that there will be 2 public informational meetings regarding the County Revision of Shoreline Ordinance with NR115. The first one on September 17. Nies said there are a few more minor adjustments only changed measured average. Instead of going from lowest grade, they went back to average. The also added a bluff definition which wasn't in the original. Another informational meeting will be scheduled in Winter and will then go into County in October or November
3. Nies reported that the Board authorized and purchased the lots the County had for sale in Northwoods Beach.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Olson said that we need to start thinking about what we want to do as far as projects for the 2012 Budget and have it into the Board by October. Nies said we will roughly have \$16,000 for next year with \$2,000.00 for mowing, we have about \$14,000.00. Olson said the Board wants to finish trail. Discussion followed. Olson said we haven't started the trail by Grindstone Shallows for snow shoeing, which is a much bigger project. The County would send in foresters to create a trail and pick which trees to remove. We own about 4 acres and the County has the rest and will allow us to use it. Right now is not a good time given the price of wood. Discussion followed. Olson suggested talking to Stone Lake regarding the cost. Olson suggested that we

could do the small one first and get a feel for it. Friendshuh said he will call Carol McDonald to get an idea.

Olson said there are also 2 view sheds to install. Laustrup asked if we could start the planning of it? Olson said we could start it. Discussion followed. Olson said most of the trails would be done by the loggers as they remove the trees and we would do the finishing. Olson said that we can get working on it and discuss it next month. The view shed on Friendshuh's donated property was discussed. Nies said we ran out of money and Nies would like to see that completed. Laustrup asked about the 200 acres off Highway 27. N said that we have a dead pit. Discussion followed. Laustrup suggested putting in a trail. Olson said we will want to consider where people would gather. Discussion followed.

Motion by Grothe, seconded by Doc to adjourn 8:03 pm. Motion carried.