

VILLAGE OF LAURIUM

310 Hecla Street, Laurium, MI 49913

www.laurium.net

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

March 13th 2023

I. Call to order @ 6:00pm

i. Attendance : Kalen Carlson, John Sullivan, Ian Raymond, Josh Harju, Ian Lewis, Daniel Woirol

II. Approval of agenda

i. Community Meeting, no formal Agenda was made.

III. Approval of January Meeting Minutes

i. Motion to approve made by Josh Harju Seconded by Ian Raymond

V. Public Session

i. Presentation by John

1- Introduction of Planning Committee – Kalen Carlson Committee Chair – will talk a little about Master Plan and future Zoning (committee meets the 2nd Monday at 630pm) –

The master plan draft should be complete by the end of May. Your input for the final chapter of the plan is sought – please contact Kalen or John to provide your input (president@villageoflaurium.com)

Zoning for the village will start once the master plan has been approved – probably late summer 2023.

2- New Village council that is motivated and energetic to see projects through
(Council meets the 3rd Tuesday at 6pm)

3- New Village Manager Ian Lewis – introduction

4- Laurium update – a few additional items for information / discussion

Village Ordinances are being continuously reviewed and updated as appropriate

Enforcement of the ordinances is becoming more of a priority for us – the key is getting the community and residence involved at an individual level. Property owners need to have a vested interest in seeing our community improve – this will require individual efforts as well as community involvement.

Community Survey was conducted a few months ago and the primary response from it was for us to focus on village blight, bringing business to Laurium and enforcement of our ordinances.

Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) Fellow approved, and we are starting the hiring process. This individual will focus on several projects for the village and will work closely with the Village Manager and the Planning Committee. The fellow will work from Mid-May 2023 through August 2024.

5- Grant opportunities for Laurium – we are working with the State Treasury on a few grant requests to help improve the Village Hall, Village fire station and Village Department of Public Works as well as our community parks. Staying on top of these requests will be one of the main tasks the CEDAM fellow will oversee.

6- Fiber network for the area – Peninsula Fiber Network is willing to work with the community and help establish Fiber drops up and Down Hecla. This is an opportunity for us and can help draw potential new business opportunities in the area.

ii. Presentation by KEDA

iii. Presentation by MEDC

V. Community Questions

Q: Will the historical Society cost business and property owners' large sums of money?

A: The goal is to use grants to offset the costs of restoration.

Q: Are we joining National / Local registry?

A: Parts of Laurium are on the National Registry, any decisions to join further registries would be a community decision. Information will be passed to business owners as it is made available to the village.

Q: Does the MEDC help with infrastructure updates?

A: Yes, but those updates should be part of a larger renovation, questions regarding specific MEDC grant opportunities should be discussed with MEDC.

Q : How can we get Fiber internet into the community?

A: Business owners will need to work together with Peninsula Fiber Network to generate enough interest to bring fiber to the businesses in the area.

Q: Where do we send comments on the master plan?

A: Email John Sullivan, Attend meetings, or comment during the 63-day review period.

Q: What is the Commission's Vision

A: To meet the needs of the community.

X. Final Comments

XI. Adjournment @ 7:15 pm