

PLANNING COMMISSION (Public Hearing) MINUTES – January 6, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:05PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rod Lowe, Robin Scully, Victor Senk, Phil Bontrager, Paul Williams, Walt Mixon via phone, Christine Lundquist was absent.

AGENDA: The agenda was approved on a motion by Paul with support by Phil.

PUBLIC HEARING – This Public hearing is held for the Public to voice their comments and concerns regarding the Burt Township Recreation Plan posted for review following the November 18th Planning Commission Meeting.

In attendance were seven residents of Grand Marais, and one had zoomed to voice comments and opinions relating to the proposed Recreation Plan.

Lori McShane passed out an “Amendment” packet identified as Marina Rec Plan Requirements that serves as a supplement packet to the Recreation Plan submitted for review by the Planning Commission following the November 18th Commission meeting. This amendment packet addresses a five-year plan that coincides with the information addressed within Burt Township Marina Master Plan.

Lori McShane asked Rod if the commission had received any email communications regarding the Rec Plan. Rod answered No emails had been received.

Tim Jenkins questioned how the ADA grading was achieved, what ADA scale was used. Rod and Phil indicated that within the Rec Plan there was an explanation identified on Page 24, that there is a DNR Accessibility Grading System (1-5).

Emily Bosch Soucy with Central Upper Peninsula Planning & Development mentioned she was the author of the grading system identified within the Rec Plan, and a grade was determined during her walk through each area visited.

Rod reviewed the process the Planning Commission used to breakdown the recreation plan content and identified each member hierarchy of importance of need to Burt Township. The group then discussed in depth to determine a final hierarchy of importance that is identified within the Recreation Plan completed copy.

Rod also indicated that not all recreation areas within Grand Marais are ADA accessible, other areas will be upgraded moving forward IE: use of Mobi Mats at beach areas.

Rod will be initiating the final Recreation Plan to the Township Board for use in the process to complete forms for Grant Fund consideration.

Rich Picel had mentioned Question 8, “What do you want to see change about the recreation in Burt Township?”

Mostly related to ATV and Snowmobiles many responses to increase restriction, as some to reduce restrictions as some responders indicated no change. This is something that should be addressed by the township board to meet the residences needs.

Tom Cleary asked a question regarding the zoning maps that Rod answered with an affirmative that the maps had been corrected per the Planning Commission recommendations.

OTHER:

There is a follow up meeting to be held immediately following this meeting to discuss any changes to the recreation plan before making a motion to approve the Recreation Plan that will be handed off to the Burt Township Board to allow them to proceed and complete necessary paperwork for Grant Funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:25PM on a motion by Victor and supported by Paul.