

**BROOKS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 26, 2018 @ 7:00 PM**  
**APPROVED**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mark Pitzer, Pat Baker, Phil Knape, Ryan Schultz, Matt Arthur, Danielle Hummel

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cheryl Rosen

**STAFF PRESENT:** Supervisor Cory Nelson

Chairman Pitzer called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was properly posted and a quorum of the Brooks Township Planning Commission was present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Moved** by Arthur, **Seconded** by Knape to accept the agenda as written.  
**Approved Unanimously**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Moved** by Knape, **Seconded** by Schultz to suspend the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing.  
**Approved Unanimously**

Public Hearing was opened at 7:07 with discussion of the Medical Marijuana and Greenbelt Ordinance. The following comments were made:

- James Barr indicated that he is happy the Board is considering and willing to answer questions. He applied to open a provisioning center in White Cloud
- Sandra Kausch is opposed of all types of facilities. She indicates that no research has been done by the Planning Commission and doesn't feel it should be in residential areas.
- Vern Willett states marijuana is "Federally illegal" and believes the ordinance should not pass and if it does, the Board Members should be recalled.
- Mike Hikade, Newaygo City Council Member, states the State Zoning Laws are also a factor to consider with our own Zoning Ordinances. There is a provision in the State Marijuana Law that gives an excise tax back to the local jurisdiction.
- Eric Johnson, Newaygo City Council Member, is in favor of the ordinance. It would bring revenue to the community and the laws are passed well above our heads.
- Dianna DeVreugd is in favor of the ordinance. She is a patient and caregiver and states there is a great need in this community. She further stated that facilities bring order and education that caregivers and patients need. Regulation and testing of marijuana would allow safe access for those who need it.
- Greg Maki, Agro Med LLC, is from Muskegon and is pursuing licenses for Newaygo County. He believes the ordinance will help individuals and create jobs. He is in favor of having Provisioning Centers located away from residential areas.

- Jim Leonard, Brooks Lake Board, referenced the 2/23/18, “Greenbelt” draft, in the following areas: Section A2 - He recommends adding, “no longer need to contact zone for permit to down trees or change vegetation”. He also indicates that the Lake Board takes care of weeds and this might be added where appropriate. There is also no mention of seawalls, docks or excavation of the shoreline. Section B is confusing. Section D1a – Suggested specifying the building of boathouses or large structures to obstruct view and clutter; D1b suggests adding the need to have water go through to pass into the ground and not run off.
- Terry Hall would like to have the lakefront “buffer zone” explained more clearly prior to passing the ordinance. He is confused about the reference to “ramps” on page 3. Terry is also concerned about whether lake associations had the opportunity to review the ordinance prior to passing changes.
- Kevin Pasma of Emerald Lake is in favor of the recommendations in the ordinance and appreciates all the work done.
- Roger Lucas questioned Section A5, regarding motorized vehicles. He is curious how this section will impact lakes (such as Emerald) that have roads within 25 feet.
- Blake Mucie of Sawyer Blvd, appreciates the Board action, process and results.
- Troy Kent, from Sylvan/Emerald Lakes questioned A5, in terms of motorized vehicles.

**Moved** by Baker, **Seconded** by Knape to close the Public Hearing and resume the regular Board Meeting at 7:45 PM.

**Approved Unanimously**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Moved** by Arthur, **Seconded** by Hummel to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2018

**Approved Unanimously**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Comments received.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Medical Marijuana – Knapp is concerned about a residential area being close to the commercial district. Arthur pointed out that State Law is a 500 foot buffer zone and our ordinance has a 300 foot notification. Hummel stated she wanted a complete, clean copy of the ordinance draft. **Moved** by Schultz, **Seconded** by Knape to approve Medical Marijuana ordinances with changes to the Township Board being responsible and not just the Clerk.  
Ayes-Schultz, Hummel, Arthur, Knape, Pitzer. Naves-Baker **Motion Carried.**
2. Greenbelt committee report – **Moved** by Baker, **Seconded** by Schultz to submit the ordinance as presented to the Township Board.  
**Approved Unanimously**

3. Expansion of business district - The Zoning Administrator sent out a new map showing the area up for discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Nuisance Ordinance – Will be discussed next month

**STAFF UPDATE:** The ZA's report for January is attached.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Comments received

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:** Comments received.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Moved** by Baker **Seconded** by Knape to adjourn at 8:55 pm

**Approved Unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Pat Baker  
Planning Commission Secretary

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Jennifer Badgero  
Clerk