

Ford River Township Planning Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2025

The meeting was called to order by at 7:00 p.m.

Present: R. Fettig, J. Church, S. Ribble, R. Ness, K. Mineau

Public Comment on Agenda Items

- Linda Laviolette wanted to reserve the right to comment on agenda items 11C and 13A.
- Sarah Nault wanted to reserve the right to comment on agenda items 11C and 13A.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

- None

Approval of Agenda

- R. Fettig made a motion to approve the agenda R. Ness seconded. Unanimously Approves

Public Hearing

- None

Minutes

- Planning Commission meeting minutes from May 2025, were approved with a motion by R. Ness, seconded by R. Fettig. Unanimously Approved

Reports

- Zoning Administrator B. Jenshak provided the commission with the May 2025 Zoning Administrators Report.

Permits

Zoning Permit issued:

1. Jennifer Marquez ● 'After the fact' Zoning Permit ● 3074 M35 Bark River, MI ● R2 Deck ● 5/30/25
2. Nicholas Dupont ● Zoning Permit ● E 4750 M35 Escanaba, MI ● Replacing Garage Trusses ● 5/30/25
3. Terry Ison ● Zoning Permit ● 5655 Portage Pt. Rd. Escanaba, MI ● Fence ● 5/16/25
4. Dean McNeill ● Zoning Permit ● 1974 F. Rd. Bark River, MI ● Camp ● Brian Gross Contractor ● 5/16/25
5. Anthony Beauchamp ● Zoning Permit ● 5409 G.5 Rd. Escanaba, MI ● Deck Covering ● Dale Gartland Contractor ● 5/16/25
6. Kurtis Juntilla ● Zoning Permit ● 3998 K. Rd. Bark River ● Fence ● 5/16/25
7. Scott Wallin ● Zoning Permit ● 3000 M35 Bark River, MI ● House ● 5/30/25

Unfinished business

- Master Plan – J. Church working with Ryan from CUPPAD on Master Plan.
- List of unfinished business still not received from past Zoning Administrator
- Nault Fence Special Use Permit - Commission went over application and set a Public Hearing for July 2, 2024, during regular Planning Commission Meeting. J. Church will send info to the clerk to be posted in the newspaper and B. Jenshak will send out letter notices.

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- Cavicchoni special use permit was discussed. K. Mineau spoke with the owner Kelly, and she supplied an RV Title. Decided to send ZBA to make the distinction that its motor-vehicle registration and non-permanent installation classify it as a recreation vehicle. J. Church asked Kelly if she was renting out the property now as a STR and she responded she was not.
- R. Fettig, R. Ness, K. Mineau, J. Church and B. Jenshak all completed and received their Citizen Planner Certificate.

Ryan Carrig – CUPPAD – Ordinance – Citation Policy

- Determine if another "Authorized Township Official" is needed for enforcement- the zoning ordinance amendment will default the zoning administrator as authorized but will not be effective until the ordinance amendment is. The Township can identify others as needed by motion of approval.
- The Township needs to procure legal municipal civil infraction citation forms, which can be done by contacting the Michigan Township Association.
- A policy or procedure for the notice of violation, and any other more informal methods for resolving issues prior to issuing citations should be maintained by the Township/Authorized Official. The goal should be to use the citations as a last resort, even if they are less time and cost intensive than prior means.
- The Township Board needs to incorporate a fine for municipal civil infractions into the Township Schedule of Fees. This can be a single fine amount, or a scale based on multiple violations. Unlike misdemeanors, this can be any amount.
- The Township Board needs to decide on effective dates for each police power ordinance. They can become effective immediately, or you can allow them to come into effect at a later date. The notice of adoption wording should match the effective dates.
 - The commission will forward documents to the board for the next Township Meeting, June 16, 2025

New Business

- Nault Complaint - J. Church - informed the Planning Commission that at the last Township Board meeting the was a comment made stating that the Commission did not have another Public Meeting when the hours of the Church Brewery were changed for the special use permit. A Public Meeting was held on January 24, 2024, hours were discussed, hours were also discussed at the Planning Commission Meeting on February 15, 2024. The Permit was not signed on March 6, 2024, so no second Public Meeting was required.
- Motion made to accept S. Ribble resignation by J. Church, by R. Ness. Motion passed. J. Church will ask the township supervisor to post a job.

Special Use Permits/ ZBA Applications

- None

Communications

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- L. Laviotte made a comment regarding parkin on I Rd. from the Church Brewery and garbage on the road.

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- J. Gucky made a comment regarding the Church Brewery on parking and home values in the area.
- S. Nault made a comment regarding the neighbors who were also parking on the side of I road when there were private gatherings and rummage sales going on.

Board Comments

- J. Church made a comment that at the last Board Meeting the Road Commissioner, Jody Norman, stated that the Road Commission were going to post “No Parking” signs on I Rd. This was not requested by the Township Board and there is to be no cost to the township for this. This would mean that it would be illegal to park along I Rd by anyone.
- J. Church, R. Ness, K. Mineau and R. Fetting all thanked Sara for sitting on the commission and wished her good luck.
- S. Ribble said it was an honor to sit on board and thanked everyone.

Adjournment

- A motion was made by R. Ness. Second by R. Fetting.

Unanimous Approval.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Jayne M, Church

Date