

Ford River Township Planning Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 02, 2025

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

Present: R. Fetting, J. Church, R. Ness, K. Mineau

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

- None

**Conflict of Interest Declaration**

- None

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Public Hearing**

- ✓ **J. Church made a motion to open Public Hearing for a special use permit for Brad and Sarah Nault (The Church Brewery) for a fence at property #009-236-011-10 located at 5133 I Rd, Bark River, MI 49807. R. Ness seconded.**

Roll Call Vote: R. Fetting – Yes R. Ness – Yes J. Church – Yes K. Mineau – Yes

No public comments.

One communication from Zoning Administrator a call from J. Gucky stating they had already started the fence.

J. Church made a motion to close Public Hearing for Brad and Sarah Nault (The Church Brewery) for a fence at property #009-236-011-10 located at 5133 I Rd, Bark River, MI 49807. R. Ness seconded.

Roll Call Vote: R. Fetting – Yes R. Ness – Yes J. Church – Yes K. Mineau – Yes

Public Hearing closed.

Commission voted on ordinance 604 General Standards

Voting on Section 604 General Standards Commenced.

- A. Will be harmonious with and in accordance with the general objectives or with any specific objectives of the Comprehensive Development Plan.

Motion Made to Accept by R. Ness .Seconded by J. Church

Roll Call: R. Ness Yes, R. Fetting Yes, J. Church Yes, K, Mineau Yes

- B. Will be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained so as to be harmonious and appropriate in appearance with the existing or intended character of the general vicinity and that such a use will not change the essential character of the same area.

Motion Made to accept by R. Ness Seconded by J. Church

Roll Call: R. Ness Yes, R. Fetting Yes, J. Church Yes, K, Mineau Yes

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- C. Will not be hazardous or disturbing to existing or future neighboring uses.

Motion Made to accept by R. Ness, Seconded by J. Church

Roll Call: R. Ness Yes, R. Fettig Yes, J. Church Yes, K, Mineau Yes

- D. Will not diminish the value of land, buildings, or structures in the District and shall represent an improvement to the property under consideration and to the community as a whole;

Motion Made to accept by R. Ness, Seconded by J. Church

Roll Call: R. Ness Yes, R. Fettig No, J. Church Yes, K, Mineau Yes

- E. Will be served adequately by essential public facilities and services, such as highways, streets, police and fire protection, drainage structures, refuse disposal, or schools, and that the persons or agencies responsible for the establishment of the proposed use shall be able to provide adequately any such service;

Motion Made to accept by R. Ness, Seconded by J. Church

Roll Call: R. Ness Yes, R. Fettig No, J. Church Yes, K, Mineau Yes

- F. Will not create excessive additional requirements at public cost for public facilities and services and will not be detrimental to the economic welfare of the community;

Motion Made to accept by R. Ness, Seconded by J. Church

Roll Call: R. Ness Yes, R. Fettig Yes, J. Church Yes, K, Mineau Yes

- G. Will not involve uses, activities, processes, materials and equipment and conditions of operation that will be detrimental to any person, property, or the general welfare by reason of excessive production of noise, traffic, smoke, fumes, glare, or odors:

Motion Made to accept by R. Ness, Seconded by J. Church

Roll Call: R. Ness Yes, R. Fettig No, J. Church Yes, K, Mineau Yes

- H. Will the location, nature and height of the proposed use be appropriate to the size, type and kind of buildings, uses and structures in the vicinity and adjacent properties, including the safety and convenience of people there from

Motion Made to accept by R. Ness, Seconded by J. Church

Roll Call: R. Ness Yes, R. Fettig No, J. Church Yes, K, Mineau Yes

- I. Will be consistent with the intent and purpose of this Ordinance and shall be compatible with the natural environment, and shall protect the public health, safety and general welfare.

Motion Made to accept by R. Ness, Seconded by J. Church

Roll Call: R. Ness Yes, R. Fettig No, J. Church Yes, K, Mineau Yes

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R. Ness made a motion to approve the special use permit for Brad and Sarah Nault (The Church Brewery) for a fence at property #009-236-011-10 located at 5133 I Rd, Bark River, MI 49807, with restriction that fence follows the property lines according to survey. J. Church seconded.

Roll Call Vote: R. Fetting – Yes R. Ness – Yes J. Church – Yes K. Mineau – Yes

- ✓ **J. Church made a motion to open Public Hearing regarding a proposed zoning ordinance amendment for Ford River Township. The amendment is to propose enforcement of the zoning ordinance by municipal civil infraction. The purpose of this hearing is to accept public comments on the proposed zoning ordinance amendment. R. Ness seconded.**

Roll Call Vote: R. Fetting – Yes R. Ness – Yes J. Church – Yes K. Mineau – Yes

No public comments.

No communications.

J. Church made a motion to close Public Hearing regarding a proposed zoning ordinance amendment for Ford River Township. The amendment is to propose enforcement of the zoning ordinance by municipal civil infraction. The purpose of this hearing is to accept public comments on the proposed zoning ordinance amendment. R. Ness seconded.

Roll Call Vote: R. Fetting – Yes R. Ness – Yes J. Church – Yes K. Mineau – Yes

Public Hearing Closed

J. Church made a motion to recommend the proposed zoning ordinance amendment for adoption by the Township Board, by roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: R. Fetting – Yes R. Ness – Yes J. Church – Yes K. Mineau – Yes

**Minutes**

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

**Reports**

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

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**Permits**

6/27/25	Z1230	Kurt Cossette	906-399-4646	RR	4545 10.75 Ln. Bark River, MI 49807	009-065-010-00	Fence	
6/27	Z1231	Joe Lasnoski	920-621-2441	R1	E4905 Hwy M35 Escanaba, MI 49829	009-370-068-00	Fence	Delta Fence
6/27	Z1233	Michael Deering	009-303-005-00	R2	E4231 M35 Bark River, MI 49807	009-303-005-00	Deck, rim joist, hangers in floor	Brian Evans Contractor
6/27	Z1232	Tom Viau	009-223-002-40	RR	6036 G.5 Rd. Escanaba, MI 49829	009-223-002-40	Garage	

**Unfinished business**

- None.

**Ryan Carrig- CUPPAD**

Ryan went over suggestions for ordinance changes and discussed moving forward on project. Will continue to issues and suggestions.

**New Business**

- None

**Special Use Permits/ ZBA Applications**

- None

**Communications**

- None

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

- Nick Kirkpatrick, 5390 Portage Point Road – Comments on Portage Point Marsh and the litter. Commented on speed limit on Portage Point Road. Commented on Junk in yard on Portage Pint Road.

**Board Comments**

- R. Fettig commented on that we need to look at Ordinance 502 when reviewing changes
- J. Church commented that The Portage Point Marsh was maintained by the DNR and not the township. That the State Police would have to determine speed and that on the web site you can report a blight complaint or call the township supervisor.

**Adjournment**

- A motion was made by R. Ness . Seconded J. Church. Unanimous Approval.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Jayne M, Church

Date