

PLANNING AND ZONING MINUTES  
Maine Prairie Township  
February 14, 2023

Planning and Zoning meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Additional topic added to Agenda: Land Split-PID 20.11109.0005 – Dennis Loewen

Motion by Zoning Administrator Froehling/Supervisor Loewen to approve the January 10, 2023 Planning and Zoning meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

**New Business:**

**Public Hearing – Knife River Atwood/Bauerly Pit:** Chair Wicker opened the public hearing with Clerk Robinson reading the legal notice published in the Tri-County News on February 9, 2023. A letter had been sent informing residents living within 1/4 mile of the pit of the public hearing. Two residents called prior to the hearing inquiring about the nature of work and expressing their concerns. Knife River's application is proposing a mining and processing operation on Parcel ID 20.11216.0000 located at 7974 State Highway 55, Kimball, MN. Chair Wicker called on John Henry, Knife River representative to review what they are proposing for the site. Mr. Henry explained that they are proposing to mine gravel and process same for road projects within this area. They will be mining from an area known as Phase 2 Area. At this time, there are no plans for an asphalt or concrete mixing operation. Concerns expressed by residents in attendance consisted of destroying the beauty of the area which is heavily wooded with trails, noise from dirt bikes, ATV vehicles and snowmobiles using the property for their pleasure. Knife River will add more fencing, signage and video surveillance to try to curtail this trespassing. Notifying the County Sheriff's Dept. was suggested as an option when these occurrences are happening. Motion by Supervisor Loewen/Zoning Administrator Froehling to close the hearing at 7:25 p.m. After review and discussion of the Findings of Fact and clarification of bonding, Motion by Supervisor Loewen/Zoning Administrator Froehling to Accept Knife River's Application for an Interim Use Permit for a mining and processing operation with additional conditions of adding more no trespassing signage, additional fencing and video surveillance. All in favor, motion carried.

**Land Split-PID 20.11109.0005 – Dennis Loewen:** A survey was presented showing a land split of 6 acres from Parcel ID 20.11101.0040 owned by Richard Eckman and attaching those 6 acres to PID 20.11109.0005 owned by Dennis W. and Jo E. Loewen, husband and wife. Motion by Chair Wicker/Zoning Administrator Froehling to grant a Certificate of Compliance for this administrative split. All in favor, motion carried with Supervisor Loewen abstaining.

**Stearns County Parks Commission-Trails Master Plan and Survey:** Margaret Arnold, at-large member of the Stearns County Parks Commission came to speak to the Board about the Parks Commission beginning a ten-month process to develop a master plan for the parks, trails and recreation system within Stearns County. Their objective is to provide natural resource-oriented parks and outdoor recreation opportunities for enhancing quality of life of County residents. The Commission is partnering with cities and townships to research land that would be suitable for the development of parks or

trails within the County. The County has a survey on their website for anyone interested in expressing their views.

**Comprehensive Growth Plan:** Supervisor Loewen suggested the Board review the Township Plan for discussion at the April Board meeting.

**Review and Approve Township Permits:** One permit was reviewed and approved:

Dennis Loewen – Certificate of Compliance	\$ 50.00
Knife River Corporation-North Central	200.00

There were no County permits for review and approval in January.

**Old Business:**

**Ordinance 2022-01, Moratorium on Vacation Rentals:** A public hearing will be held at the March 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to enact a proposed Amendment to the Township Land Use and Zoning Ordinance No. 4 regulating vacation home rentals within the Township.

Motion by Supervisor Loewen/Zoning Administrator Froehling to adjourn Planning and Zoning at 8:10 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Robinson  
Clerk/Treasurer