

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX
PLANNING COMMISSION
WORKSHOP MINUTES

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 – 7 pm
Virtual meeting via Zoom

The City of Marine on St. Croix Planning Commission workshop was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present: Chair Gerry Mrosła, Commissioners Scott Spisak, Kristina Smitten, Jennifer Henry.

No citizens present.

Zoning Code Review

The Commission resumed its review of the zoning code beginning with Section 504: Single Family Rural.

504.2: Commissioner Spisak noted that the proposed strike, “power distribution equipment” in Single Family Rural, would include the public works garage, and asked whether the code should address the public works facility.

Spisak will refine the definition of “essential services.”

Commissioner Smitten pointed out that the list of zoning districts and the zoning map needed an update (Sections 501 and 502; p 5-1). *Suzanne will ask Lynette to review zoning changes on page and let the commission know if there are changes.*

Returning to 504.2, Smitten asked if city buildings could go anywhere in town. If not, maybe the code should allow them in this section.

Add municipal buildings.

504.4 Interim Uses: Spisak wondered why “temporary classroom structures” was included. Smitten noted that schools are also listed under Single Family Rural uses [Section 504.5 (2)], as are churches.

504.5 (3) Seasonal produce stand:

Strike “to a farm;”

504.5 (5) Public parks and playgrounds:

Strike “provided that.”

504.5 (8-9)

Strike “Daycare” (to read “Residential” only)

Spisak asked whether treatment centers are protected. *Suzanne will ask the city attorney.*

504.7 (2-3)

(2)(b) Reads: “All designated open space shall be platted as outlot parcels held as open space in perpetuity.”

Commissioner Smitten will consider look into a credit option under “Location Criteria.”

504.7: Under 6(d) Just say: as provided in Minnesota Statutes

Strike statute numbers.

504.8

(6) Driveways

Commission Smitten said Jason Crotty of Marine’s Public Works department requested an addition to the code regarding the grade where the driveway meets the road. He would like a distance, so that steep driveways do not drop right into the road.

Commissioner Smitten will look into this.

504.9 (3)

Commissioner Spisak would like clarification on the septic systems and will research issue.

Section 505: St. Croix Rural Residential District

Single Family Rural sits between Highway 95 and the river, north of Pine Cone Trail and south of Butternut Falls. The Scout Camp occupies most of the piece on the south end.

505.2 (3) Permitted Uses: the proposed strike under “essential services” circles back to Commissioner Spisak’s review of the definition for essential services.

Smitten: We’re not going to allow residential care.

Suzanne will ask Attorney Snyder.

Strike (8) Wireless Communications, Antennas and Towers

505.5 Conditional Uses: Commissioner Spisak noted that descriptions should be consistent from district to district.

(3): Reinsert “Municipal” for consistency.

(4-a): Seasonal produce stand - replace the description with the one from the SFR district.

(5) Public parks and playgrounds - Strike all underneath.

(6) Day Care facilities needs to be consistent with what came before.

We could use a better zoning map. Suzanne will see what she can do.

505.7 District Performance Standards

Commissioner Smitten asked whether the DNR would review item (1): Lot Standards.

Commissioners believed it would.

(6) Slopes and steep slopes: *Commissioner Smitten will look at this section.*

(9) Tree Preservation

Add Tree Preservation to District Performance Standards in the previous district (504.6).

Smitten requested that Tree and Woodland Preservation (405.7) be included in all river districts.

The commission stopped at Section 506.

Next Workshop Date

Suzanne will set up a Doodle Poll for weeks of June 8th and 15th.

Discuss date for public hearing on the Short Term Rental Ordinance

Mrosla told the commission that the mayor would like the hearing to happen before the July Planning Commission meeting. Also, the mayor would like to start holding meetings in person. Mrosla asked if commissioners were comfortable with that. The commissioners present felt that if distancing could be maintained and the windows opened they would be comfortable. There was discussion around whether there would be a Zoom option for residents not comfortable coming in, and whether the city has a plan for managing attendance, such as having people wait outside, then leave after they're finished speaking so others could come in. Commissioner Spisak noted that the hall can get hot, which could exacerbate potential issues. He also requested that city staff talk with the city attorney about requirements of holding a public hearing, and how it should be set up to ensure access. The commission would like Attorney Snyder at the hearing.

Adjournment

Spisak moved and Smitten seconded to adjourn at 8:43 pm. Roll call vote: Mrosla – Aye; Smitten – Aye; Spisak – Aye; Henry – Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Suzanne Dammann, Assistant City Clerk.