

# Blue Lake Township

Kalkaska County, Michigan

## Minutes

Planning Board Meeting Via Zoom

Saturday, May 16, 2020 9:00 am

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 9:10 am – Allen
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – Allen
- III. Roll Call of Members Present: Sawasky, Bond, Shaw, Southwell, Gruley, and Allen.  
Also present: Kathy Campbell, and ten (10) Zoom participants
- IV. Adoption of Agenda - Allen \*It was noted that minutes would be taken by Shaw. Motion to adopt agenda was made by Shaw and supported by Allen, motion was carried.
- V. Declaration of Conflict of Interest – None
- VI. Minutes of last meeting – Not available, will be reviewed at next meeting.
- VII. Public Input - In order to hear all participants a limit of 3 minutes each will be enacted, and all high-water concerns and comments will be heard, discussed and listed in section XIII.
- VIII. Report of Township Board Representative to Planning Commission - Shaw
  1. The Board heard complaints about high water levels from property owners on Starvation Lake and the Twin Lakes. The process to ask the DNR for boating restrictions was also reviewed. It was noted that the timelines to complete the process would encompass most of the summer boating season. The Twin Lakes concerns cannot be processed because the lakes are in two different townships and the other township is not interested in enacting a temporary watercraft control ordinance. It was also noted that the DNR boat launch site is flooded and has been closed. The Township Board requested a Planning Commission Meeting for Saturday, May 16th to review data and concerns
- IX. Report of Planning Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals - Sawasky - No Meeting
- X. Old Business -
  1. Motion by Allen to table old business until the board can meet in person without relying on Zoom, supported by Sawasky. Roll call vote: Allen, Sawasky, Bond, Southwell, Gruley, and Shaw all yea, motion carried.
  2. A publishable document on ordinance changes will be forwarded to the Clerk by Allen.
- XI. New Business -
  1. Motion to appoint new chair and secretary is needed. No volunteers for chair or secretary. Motion by Sawasky to define our roles at a later meeting and to keep the present chair in place temporarily, supported by Shaw. Roll call vote: Sawasky, Shaw, Allen, Bond, Gruley, and Southwell all yeas. Motion carried. A new Secretary will be sought.
  2. Discussions on Starvation Lake water levels; Starvation Lake Zoom participants stated they want a temporary ban on high speed boating on the lake due to extreme high-water levels. They stated that the high water is causing flooded septic systems, flooded yards, overflowing sea walls and encroaching crawl spaces. They feel waves from speed boats will make the conditions worse. They expressed concerns that waves would wash debris and shoreline material into the lake. They also expressed concerns that waves could knock people from docks since docks are now so low to the lake level. They asked the PB to use Public Act 72 of 2020 to apply to the DNR for temporary watercraft control.
- XII. Planning Board Member Comments and Input
  1. Reviewed the procedure for applying for the DNR temporary watercraft control. Additional information is needed from the residents of Starvation Lake such as,
    - a. Number of people on the lake that agree with boating restrictions

- b. Number of properties (with addresses) affected by high water levels and the type of damage occurring.
  - c. A resident contact person. This person will email the planning board ([blplan@torchlake.com](mailto:blplan@torchlake.com)) and the Clerk ([blclerk@torchlake.com](mailto:blclerk@torchlake.com)) with information and documentation concerning the application for PA 72 of 2020.
2. Planning Board will research and review wording on resolutions and/or ordinance from the other lakes outside of our township who have used the DNR process (Gruley has this information and has emailed the PB). PB will contact the Sheriff Department for their input. In addition, the Township Board will have to agree to design, order, pay, and post signs if restrictions are approved by the DNR. The PB will try to set up a public meeting on June 4 at 7:00 pm if we can get publications in time to meet State requirements for notifications.

**XIII.** Set Next Meeting Date - Tentative date June 4, 2020 at 7:00 pm Township Hall.

**XIV.** Adjournment –

- 1. Motion to adjourn at 11:12 am by Shaw, supported by Allen. Roll call vote: Shaw, Allen, Bond, Gruley, Sawasky, and Southwell all yeas, motion carried.

These minutes are not official until approved by the Blue Lake Township Planning Commission at the next scheduled meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Attested to:

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M. Shaw, Temporary Secretary  
Planning Board

Rhonda Allen, Planning Board Chair