

**Official Lake County Planning Commission  
Minutes  
Two Harbors Law Enforcement Center  
October 21, 2019**

Approved as corrected  
11/25/2019

The Lake County Planning Commission sat in session at 6:00 p.m. on this date and conducted hearings & other business.

**Members Present:** Chair Joe Skala, Jim Wienzierl, Dan Zeimet, Mike Hoops, Commissioner Rich Sve, Simbre Fosness, and John Bathke

**Members Absent:** none

**Planning and Zoning Staff Present:** Christine McCarthy (Environmental Services Director), Neva Maxwell (Land Use Specialist), Jill Paron (Environmental Services Specialist).

Joe Skala called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

The first hearing, **I-19-021**, was a renewal Interim Use application filed by **Timothy Thornburgh**, which if approved, would allow a vacation rental home at 685 Cuttingwood Dr., Knife River, on property described as: SW 14/ of NE ¼ of NW ¼ in Section 20, Township 52, Range 11, 10 acres, zoned R-1/Residential, ten-acre minimum, Unorganized Territory #2. PID: 25-5211-20260

Joe Skala introduced the application and McCarthy read the legal requirements. There was no correspondence for this application.

Timothy Thornburgh represented the application. There was general discussion regarding the septic system.

Skala opened the hearing to the public. Mark Falk spoke in favor. He is a neighbor and the emergency contact for the rental. He stated the neighbors haven't had any complaints since the rental came into compliance.

Motion by Bathke supported by Weinzierl to recommend County Board approval for the Interim Use application for five (5) years with the following findings & conditions:

Findings:

1. A safe entry from Cuttingwood Road and off-street parking exists.
2. Rental activities should have no impact to site conditions.

3. Utilities and infrastructure have been established and septic system has passed inspection for 3-bedrooms.
4. Vacation rentals have not proven to be a harmful use throughout the county. Normal rental activities should not diminish values or restrict other lot owner activities.
5. The proposed use is allowable under approved county guidelines and recreational use of rural property is a Lake County tradition.

Conditions:

1. Maximum of three (3) bedroom & six (6) renters until expansion of septic system is approved by Planning & Zoning for five (5) bedrooms & 10 renters.
2. Quiet hours 9 PM-9 AM
3. ATV's/ snowmobile must be trailered while on the property.
4. No fireworks.
5. No discharge of firearms.
6. Fires must be in a designated fire ring.

Motion passed by unanimous vote. **(PCR-19-026)**.

Motion by Sve supported by Bathke to approve the September 16, 2019 minutes as submitted. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Other Business:

McCarthy brought forward discussion of renewals for Interim Use Permits for Vacation Rental.

Sve stated that legislation could be introduced to allow approval by the Planning Commission rather than having the Planning Commission make a recommendation to the County Board.

McCarthy asked whether anything after the first 5-year renewal could be done administratively.

No decisions or actions were made on this item of business.

The last item of business was Castle Danger Sanitary District (CDSD) zoning being returned to

Lake County jurisdiction.

McCarthy explained that Silver Creek Township had public hearings and passed a resolution to return zoning in Castle Danger Sanitary District to the County effective January 1, 2020.

McCarthy distributed maps of the CDS D with proposed zoning changes. She explained that most of the district will return to the zoning districts before CDS D jurisdiction was transferred to Silver Creek Township in the 1990's. She explained that certain areas are being proposed for changes to more closely match what CDS D zoning has been. She explained the most notable change is in areas the are currently Resort-Commercial and will change to Residential-4. The R-4 district does not allow commercial activity other than Vacation Rental and Bed and Breakfasts. McCarthy also stated that CDS D does not allow Vacation Rental Homes, but under County Ordinance that will now be allowed under the Interim Use Permitting process.

Motion by Sve supported by Bathke to initiate the process of rezoning in the Castle Danger Sanitary District.

McCarthy requested the November Planning Commission hearing be moved from Silver Bay to Two Harbors. All agreed this would be a better location for a rezoning hearing.

Motion by Bathke supported by Fosness to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Paron  
Environmental Services Specialist