

**CITY OF NISSWA
PLANNING COMMISSION/BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021, 6:00 PM**

Members Present: Don Jacobson, Josh Young, Gary Harris, Bob Fier, Linda Gettelman, Kristin Hansen

Members Absent:

Others Present: Mark Hallan, WSN

Staff Present: Brittney Cotner, Maggi Wentler

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Young calls the meeting to order at 6:01pm.
2. **Meeting Roll Call:**
3. **Onsite Visits: None**
4. **Additions & Deletions from the Agenda:**

Motion: Harris motioned to approve the February 2, 2021 agenda as presented Gettelman seconded. All members voting “Aye”, motion carries.

5. **Approval of Minutes:**

a. **January 5, 2021 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes:**

Motion: Fier motioned to approve the January 5, 2021 minutes as presented, Harris seconded. All members voting “Aye”, motion carries.

6. **Open Forum: None**

7. **Public Hearings: None**

8. **New Business:**

- a. **Extension of Interim Use Permit for Chamber of Commerce Sign**
Property location: 28120661
Property Owner: Gull Lake Drifters
Applicant: Nisswa Chamber of Commerce, Pam Dorion (present)

Cotner read her staff report in for the record. She noted that she received approval from the Gull Lake Drifters to have this sign continue on their property.

Fier questioned why 5 years. Cotner stated she decided on 5 years to allow time for planning for a permanent sign. They are looking at a location that would be owned by the city, but are waiting for the county to turn back the land to the city near the roundabout. Dorion stated the Chamber received a grant to update this billboard sign.

Motion: Harris motioned to approve the extension of this Interim Use Permit to allow an off-site sign at PID# 28120661 with the following conditions:

1. The current sign is not to be expanded or enlarged.
2. No additional lighting is permitted.
3. The Interim Use Permit is to expire on January 1, 2026.

Findings of Fact:

1. The subject property is located at the southwest corner of Co Rd 18 and State Hwy 371. PID 28120661.
2. The subject property is in the “Central Business” Zoning District.
3. The Interim Use Permit request is to place an off-site sign.
4. The subject property is 0.98 acres.
5. Impervious Surface Coverage: The property has 9% impervious surface coverage and will not be increasing.
6. The proposed use will help to promote downtown businesses.
7. The proposed use will not create a public nuisance.
8. The proposed use will not depreciate property values within the immediate vicinity of the subject property.

Further Discussion:

Jacobson stated that when permits are extended for this long of period they tend to forget about it and they end up coming in for another extension. Jacobson would like to see a 2 year term on this. Harris believes the Chamber will be flexible with the city to make progress on a new sign.

Fier seconded. All members voting “Aye”, motion carries.

b. Nominations and Selection of Planning Commission Chair & Vice Chair

Harris motioned to nominate Young as the Chair and himself (Harris) as the Vice Chair again for another year, Fier seconded. All members voting “Aye”, motion carries.

9. Old Business - None

10. Planning & Zoning Administrator’s Report

a. Permits

Cotner stated we had 1 permit this past month.

b. Violations List

Cotner stated there was one new violation this month. February has started off with a number of complaints.

Gettelman questioned if the political sign violation has been taken care of. Cotner stated she sent out a letter to the property owner last week.

Harris would like an update on the Boberg car rental business. Cotner stated the owner will be coming in next month for a Conditional Use Permit. She also noted that the council waved the after-the-fact fee.

The planning commission discussed the idea of food trucks based on the information that Cotner sent out because of a potential application coming down the pipeline. Currently our ordinance doesn't allow them. Cotner stated based on past minutes she found the brick and mortar stores don't like them and the parking concerns. Fier stated that in the past food trucks have been in downtown during special events. Pam Dorion (audience) stated that they have allowed food trucks during special events if the local businesses believe they can't accommodate all the visitors. Gettelman questioned how Grand View Lodge is able to have their food truck. Cotner stated that it was allowed with a Peddler Transient Merchant application. The commission at this time will leave the ordinance as is.

11. Commissioners' Questions/Comments:

12. Adjourn

Motion: Young motioned to adjourn the February 2, 2021 meeting at 6:30 pm, seconded by Gettelman. All members voting "Aye", motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggi Wentler, Finance Specialist