

**New York Mills Zoning Committee
Regular Meeting
February 25, 2014
1:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

The regular meeting of the New York Mills Zoning Committee was called to order at 1:13 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, New York Mills, Minnesota, all members of the Committee having been notified of the meeting. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Chairperson Dianna Wallgren, Jann Lee, Tim Johnson, Ken Peltier, Jason Schik

Members Absent: Mike Parta, Greg Imsande

Staff Present: City Clerk Darla Berry, Administrative Assistant Cheri Kopveiler

Call to Order: The regular February meeting of the New York Mills Zoning Committee was called to order at 1:13 pm by Chairperson Dianna Wallgren. **A quorum was present.**

Approval of Minutes: **A motion was made by K. Peltier to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2014 meeting, seconded by J. Lee and carried without a dissenting vote.**

Old Business:

A. State Building Code Discussion--

Chairperson D. Wallgren gave a recap of last month's visit with building inspector Dave Niesen. Niesen discussed the adoption of the State Building Code and gave an overview of benefits and costs. The Zoning Committee discussed whether there would be enough money generated from permits to pay for a building inspector. J. Schik pointed out that with the different regulations more permits would be required at a higher cost than in the past. Schik also reported that there are some changes coming in the State Building Code in 4-6 months which will require buildings with more than 4,500 square feet to have sprinkler systems installed. The Zoning Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to wait until the City has developed a comprehensive plan or moved forward with a visionary plan before making this decision. Several members felt that the building code was not a good fit for a small community. Clerk Berry stated that the building code already applies throughout the state and licensed contractors are regulated by the code, but adopting the code means that the City would enforce it.

B. Visionary/Comprehensive Planning Update—

J. Schik gave a report on the last EDA meeting, where several guests were present including Perham's Economic Developer Chuck Johnson, West Central Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA) representative Mark Hanson, and Boon Caughey, loan officer at Central Minnesota Credit Union. The meeting was very productive, with discussion of the development of a comprehensive plan

and economic development in the City. Mark Hanson explained the services offered by WCEDA and expressed a great interest in working for the community of New York Mills. The City would pay a \$5,000 annual donation which would give them access to a large amount of services in economic development, planning, business consultation and promotion. Hanson would also be the legs for working on planning or future annexation. The EDA discussed developing a comprehensive plan and other options. They will make a decision regarding using West Central Alliance's services at their next meeting.

The Zoning Committee discussed the needs of the community for housing. A housing study is being conducted in conjunction with Perham to determine needs and develop a plan. Members agreed that rental housing is an important factor to bridge the gap with those coming to New York Mills to work for Brunswick and other businesses. Many people want to rent initially until they have established roots in the community and then transcend to buying a home when their job is established and children are invested in the school, etc. They discussed rezoning several lots in Country View to allow for more rental housing if needed as well as other possible locations for housing. The housing study will be helpful in addressing this.

New Business:

Clerk Berry reported that Verizon has applied for a permit to place a cement pad. Generator, chain link pad and steel pillars under the water tower. This permit was approved on February 20th.

Administrative Assistant C. Kopveiler asked the Zoning Committee to give the subject of billboards in city limits some thought. She pointed out there are advantages and disadvantages for allowing them in city limits. She reported that the EDA has discussed billboards in the past to promote local businesses and the business community. Clerk Berry stated that the EDA was unable to place signs advertising available lots in Country View Addition on the airport land outside of town because the City has a zoning ordinance forbidding billboards, even though the property was located outside of city limits. Because the City has this restriction in town, MNDot required them to abide by the same regulations on city-owned property outside of town. C. Kopveiler stated that the initial reason for the ordinance was to discourage the advertising of businesses from other communities inside our city limits, such as Perham or Detroit Lakes. She pointed out that only a relatively small stretch along Highway 10 is in city limits, specifically from just west of the overpass (Cornwell Ave.) to the VFW (Boardman Ave.). Clerk Berry stated that the City has been donated two very small parcels along Highway 10, located within this stretch of highway, where the EDA or other entities could use to promote the City of New York Mills. Chairperson Wallgren asked that committee members give the subject some thought for future discussion.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting of the Zoning Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Dianna Wallgren at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Cheri Kopveiler
Administrative Assistant/Zoning