

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
July 11, 2022

The Saranac Village Council Regular Meeting was called to order by President Darby at 7:00 p.m. at the Saranac Village Office, 27 N Bridge Street.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: President Darby, Straubel, DPW Simmons; Trustees – Day, Doll, Klutman, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley

Absent: None

Guests: Deputy Sean Farrell, Mark Schaafsma, Kevin Moor, Joella Miller

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to approve the Regular Agenda. All yeas.

Public Comments – None.

Law Enforcement Report

Council members reviewed Ionia County Sheriff Office stats for Village of Saranac patrol for the month of June 2022. Deputy Sean Farrell was in attendance to provide council with an update on village law enforcement items of interest.

Motion was made by Mulnix at 7:06 p.m., supported by Doll, to open the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Public Hearing to accept comments on a variance application for Harker Place located at 234 S Vosper Street, Saranac. All yeas.

Mark Schaafsma has applied for a variance from the ARPUD Section 30.15A.04 (3) Side Setback, of the Village of Saranac Zoning Ordinance, to add a garage on the north side of the existing building located at 234 S Vosper Street, Saranac. To do as proposed, a 21' variance from the north side lot line and a 30' variance from the west side lot line will be needed.

Council members reviewed the amended Special Use Permit (SUP) application, the application for Variance, Jeanne Vandersloot's memo of review, and Dave Shaw's memo regarding the Planning Commission's recommendation following the Public Hearing they held on 7/6/22 to accept comments on the amended SUP and corresponding site plan.

Shaw's memo states that on 7/6/22, the Planning Commission approved the SUP amendment to the site plan for Harker Place submitted by MSDB LLC (Mark Schaafsma), to add 3 garages, reduce and change some of the lawn area, add the south garage access drive and reconfigure the east entrance driveway and the landscaped island near the front of the main entrance, with the condition that the ZBA approves a 21' variance from the north side lot line and a 30' variance from the west side lot line.

There were no public comments, nor were any comments received prior to the public hearing.

Motion was made by Mulnix at 7:09 p.m., supported by Simmons, to close the Public Hearing. All yeas.

Motion was made by Klutman, supported by Doll, to approve Schaafsma's request for a variance from side setbacks (21' variance from the north side lot line and a 30' variance from the west side lot line).

Roll call vote: yeas – Day, Doll, Klutman, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

Motion was made by Day, supported by Mulnix, to accept the minutes of the June 13, 2022 Regular Meeting. All yeas.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Simmons, to accept the Treasurer's Report of June 30, 2022. All yeas.

Various Accounts Payable items were reviewed and questions answered.

Motion was made by Doll, supported by Whorley, to approve the Accounts Payable of July 11, 2022, in the amount of \$65,623.47.

Roll call vote: yeas – Day, Doll, Klutman, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

Motion was made by Mulnix, supported by Doll, to reappoint Patricia Essig as the Village of Saranac's Library Trustee for a 4-year term expiring September 30, 2026.

Roll call vote: yeas – Day, Doll, Klutman, Mulnix, Simmons, Whorley, Darby; nays – none; absent – none.

The Zoning Administrator's Report of Services for June 2022 was reviewed.

Straubel shared information with council members relative to the Historical Society's Zoning Permit Application to add onto one of their storage buildings. The property that the depot, pavilion and storage buildings sit on, is owned by the Village of Saranac and the Historical Society has a life-lease on the property. Vandersloot reported that adding on to the existing building as proposed would not allow for the required setback, and may even cross the property line. Straubel suggested that the Village have the property surveyed, to identify the actual lot lines. Straubel also suggested contacting the adjacent property owner to see if there's any interest in selling a small piece of the property. Council concurred with Straubel's suggestions.

Darby shared with council members, an ongoing situation at the Farmers Market relating to a customer who continues to bring his dog to the market. The Market Masters have clearly stated with signage, that dogs are not allowed. Deputy Farrell was on scene when the most recent confrontation occurred, and managed to diffuse the situation.

Doll noted that he has seen many RV/campers parked in resident's yards lately, which may be a zoning violation, depending on the circumstances. Straubel will confer with Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator and DPW Simmons will keep an eye out during his daily rounds of the Village.

Planning Commission Report

The Planning Commission met and held a public hearing on an amended SUP and site plan for Harker Place, as discussed earlier tonight. Shaw, Planning Commission Chair, informed council through a memo, that the Planning Commission approved the SUP/site plan amendment with the condition that the ZBA approves the variance request, which they did after tonight's public hearing on said variance request.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Personnel – No report.

Public Safety

Chief Simmons reported that the Fire Department's number of calls for the first six months of 2022 puts them on pace for 600 calls for the year. Simmons noted that compensation for the second quarter was \$13.29 per call and they've been averaging eight members per call.

Per Simmons, the department has been discussing coverage and compensation and would like to share their ideas with Fire Board members at a special meeting, as opposed to waiting until the annual meeting in January of 2023. Darby requested that Chief Simmons submit the department's ideas in writing before calling a special meeting.

Council members discussed, amongst other things, how the residential growth of Boston Township will impact the Fire Department.

Parks & Recreation

Doll shared information about a climbing wall in Highland Park. He suggested that council consider the idea when discussing future improvements/additions to Scheid Park.

Streets

DPW Simmons reported that chip and seal has been scheduled as follows; Mill Street, from Fuller Street to the East Village limits, and Center Street, from Mill Street to Main Street.

Buildings & Grounds

Darby commented on the fact that the soffit on the Fire Department building looks great. Chief Simmons said that a former department member who has a power washing business offered to clean it at no charge. Thank you Lane See!

Water & Sewer

DPW Simmons reported that the water tower tank inspection has been completed and everything looks good. The report noted that cathodic cells will need to be changed the next time the water tower is drained.

Public Comments – None.

Additional Business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Becky Straubel,
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk