

VILLAGE OF SARANAC
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR & PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2026

The Planning Commission Regular & Public Hearing Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shaw at 7:03 p.m. at the Saranac Village Office, 27 N. Bridge Street.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Shaw, Tlapek, Trierweiler, Day

Absent: Hesche

Guests: Mark Culmer (CHO, via phone), Todd Langden (CHO), Tracie Wilson (CHO), Ryan Gurd (CHO), Brooke Gurd (CHO), Evan Smith (9 Main St. building owner), John Thorp (Saranac Chiropractic Center), Danielle Eickhoff (Saranac Chiropractic Center), Tony Baumgartner (Viki's Pasty), Bradley Potter, Laurie Brooks, Mary Fields, Mike Stiles, Sharon Darby (Saranac Village President), Jeanne Vandersloot (Zoning Administrator)

Motion was made by Trierweiler, supported by Day, to approve the Agenda of October 14, 2026. All yeas.

Public Comments - None

Public Hearing

The Planning Commission of the Village of Saranac is holding a Public Hearing to accept comments on a Special Use Permit Application and an Application to Operate an Adult-Use Recreational Marihuana Establishment at 9 Main Street, Saranac, submitted by Mark Culmer (CHO).

Motion was made by Trierweiler at 7:06 p.m., supported by Day, to open the Public Hearing. All yeas.

Baumgartner stated that he has no complaints or problems with CHO, which used to be located next to his business. He noted that CHO is involved in the community quite a bit, participating in approximately 38-40 community projects.

Stiles commented that he has been helped personally by CHO's business, noting that their products helped with his back pain.

Eickhoff brought up concerns regarding a potential smell and noted the use of an unlicensed contractor. Baumgartner responded to the concern by stating that contractors have nothing to do with the operation of the business itself. Langden, who works security, stated that the operation is licensed and there is no smell. He further noted that they would lose their license if anyone smoked marihuana at the establishment.

Thorp voiced concerns regarding volatile organic compounds (VOCs). He also discussed how individuals are sometimes unable to secure a mortgage due to having a dispensary located next to them. Baumgartner disputed this point, stating that several years ago he considered buying the property where CHO was previously located, for \$35,000, and recently it sold for \$200,000, with a dispensary still inside the building.

Fields stated that she has experience getting massages and experience using products from a dispensary. She has received help from CHO with her health and has never smelled anything. She expressed her belief that CHO is an asset to the community.

Thorp and Eickhoff stated that there is only drywall between 9 Main Street and the neighboring businesses and has reported odor issues to Tony Koster, Department of Public Works Director for the Village of Saranac, and the State of Michigan. Wilson noted that they have a brick wall rather than just drywall on their side of the shared wall. She added that she has never received a request for an inspection of the building, which she stated she would gladly accommodate.

Culmer spoke highly of the CHO staff and reiterated how involved the business, led by the staff, is within the community.

Gurd discussed previously spending a year in the hospital and spoke about the medicinal properties of marijuana. He expressed a desire to help others and focus on providing education to their customers.

Motion was made by Day at 7:42 p.m., supported by Trierweiler, to close the Public Hearing. All yeas.

Motion was made by Trierweiler, supported by Day, to approve the Special Use Permit Application and Application to Operate an Adult-Use Recreational Marijuana Establishment at 9 Main Street, Saranac, submitted by Mark Culmer (CHO), with the following conditions:

1. A log must be kept of when filtration has been changed per manufacturers recommendation, for any system that requires filtration.

Roll call vote: yeas – Shaw, Trierweiler, Day; nays – none; absent – Hesche; abstain – Tlappek. Motion approved.

Motion was made by Trierweiler, supported by Tlappek, to approve the September 2, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes and the September 16, 2026 Special Meeting minutes. All yeas.

New Business – None

Old Business – None

Public Comments – None

The next regular Planning Commission meeting will be held on November 4, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Saranac Village Office, unless called off by Chairperson Shaw.

The meeting was adjourned by Shaw at 7:56 p.m.

Steve Trierweiler, Secretary,
Village of Saranac Planning Commission