

YATES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING FOR CAMPING ORDINANCE INFORMATION SESSION

FINAL MINUTES June 29, 2023, 5:00 p.m. ET

1) Call to Order

Chairperson Grier called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2) Roll Call

Present: Secretary Blair Evans, Chair Chris Grier, Commissioner Amy Ellis, and Commissioner Kurt Johnson

Absent: YTB Rep. & Ex-officio Shawn Coffey, Commissioner Julia Carr, and Commissioner Lester Walker

3) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

4) Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Kurt Johnson to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Amy Ellis.

Roll Call: Commissioner Amy Ellis – Yes, Secretary Blair Evans – Yes, Chair Chris Grier – Yes, Commissioner Kurt Johnson – Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

5) Information from the public for items on the agenda

No comments offered.

6) Business

Information session to review:

- a. Continue the process to make amendments to the Zoning Ordinance on camping.

Chair Grier reviewed the prior information session.

Chair Grier introduced Commissioner Kurt Johnson as the facilitator of the session.

- b. Receive public input.

Vice-Chair Kurt Johnson led large and small group discussion starting with a handout of the infographic from the prior session.

Summary of comments from the zoom and in-person workgroups is attached to the minutes.

7) Public Comment: according to the Planning Commission bylaws

No additional comments past those offered in the information session.

8) Adjournment

Motion by Chair Grier to adjourn, second by Commissioner Kurt Johnson.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blair Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Secretary Blair Evans

YATES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
June 29, 2023 Camping Ordinance Information Session

Summary of Input

Vice-chair and facilitator Kurt Johnson explained the infographic summarizing past input.

Secretary Evans reviewed COIP for all participants.

The charge was given to focus on “where” camping can be.

There are approximately 12 people in the room and another 12 people on zoom. The people on zoom will work as a group and use the chat for notes. The people in the room break into smaller groups for discussion.

Results from group discussions

Restrict camping around the lake because of the congestion that it brings to an already crowded area. It would change the peaceful and tranquil environment.

Restrict camping in all of the platted areas.

Should have lot size restriction camping. Some suggested 4+ lots minimum in platted areas.

Considerations should be made for the conservation and purity of the Pere Marquette and other waterways by restricting camping.

People who have a home should be allowed to engage in temporary camping set up on their own property on a time-limited, seasonal basis. Storage of a RV should be allowed on personal property, but only when there is a home on the property. This will keep Yates from looking like a campground area. Look at visual shielding.

Homes that allow guest camping must be in livable condition.

Camping in agricultural zones is a major concern for residents and infrastructure.

Need a noise ordinance along with camping ordinance.

All camping not as a guest at a house or on a campground should require a permit for any duration to regulate campers.

Suggestion that rustic camping isn't appropriate for Yates in general due to health and water safety.

Commercial campgrounds restricted to primary/paved roads, perhaps near national forest or trail attractions. Not surrounded by heavily populated area with room. On sewer or with room for proper septic.

No rustic camping in the platted areas. No commercial campgrounds in platted areas. Special use on private property in the acreage with the noted constraints but not in the higher density platted areas. Perhaps a limit on the number of sites allowed. In the acreage regulate to 4 or less unless state permit is issued.

Rustic camping in Idlewild on private property with a home only. Rustic camping in the acreage with proper waste disposal for 14 days only.

Special events 2-7 days allowed in Idlewild with proper paperwork. Temporary dwellings in acreage only at least 100' off the road for up to 14 days using dumping station for their waste.

Commercial campgrounds in the acreage only on improved roads with landscape buffers and utilities. Will look at a commercial campground on 18 mile off of M37 for ideas.