

City of Tawas City Planning Annual Report July 2019 – June 2020

Planning Commission

1. Membership

Member	Position	Term Expires
Mary Doak	Chair	March 31, 2021
Brian McMurray	Vice Chair & Council Representative	December 31, 2020
Robert (Butch) Short	Secretary	March 31, 2023
Jeff Bower	Commissioner	March 31, 2020
Kenneth Cook	Commissioner	March 31, 2021
Chuck Klenow	Commissioner	March 31, 2021
Tracy Stevelinck	Commissioner	March 31, 2022
Ronald Gavenda	Commissioner	March 31, 2023
Jackie Masich	Vice Chair & Council Representative	December 31, 2021
Riley Klinger	EYES Participant	May 30, 2020

2. Attendance

	Bower	Cook	Doak	Gavenda	Klenow	Klinger	Masich	McMurray	Short	Stevelinck
Jul	C	C	C		C			C	C	C
Aug	P	P	P		P			P	A	P
Sep	P	P	P		P			P	P	A
Oct	P	P	P		P			P	A	P
Nov	C	C	C		C			C	C	C
Dec	P	P	P		P	P		A	P	P
Jan	C	C	C		C	C	C		C	C
Feb	P	P	P		P	P	P		P	P
Mar	C	C	C		C	C	C		C	C
Apr		C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C
May		C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C
Jun		C	C	C	C		C		C	C

P = present A = absent C = meeting cancelled

3. Meetings

Planning Commission meetings are typically held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. There were a number of meetings this past year that were cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meeting Date	Agenda Items
July 2, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancelled
August 6, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoning Ordinance Update – review Article 3
September 10, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boneyard BBQ, 646 West Lake Street, addition Huron Coast Dental, 508 West Lake Street, addition Anchor Park Lease Proposal Design of railings on pier
October 3, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Randy’s Towing, 303 Elms Avenue, special use for truck rental Zoning Ordinance Update – review Article 3
November 5, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancelled
December 3, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request to vacate Oak Street 2020 Meeting Schedule
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancelled
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Capital Improvement Plans Appoint Vice Chair Antiques and Collectibles Resale Shop, 1131 West Lake Street, use approval
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancelled
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancelled
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancelled
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancelled

4. Master Plan Review

The Tawas City Master Plan was updated in December 2018. On January 13, 2020 the Planning Commission reviewed the table of action items in the Master Plan at the joint workshop.

5. Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Zoning Ordinance

Section	Amendment/Addition	Status
	None	

Rezoning Requests

Location	Request	Status
	None	

Zoning Board of Appeals

1. Membership

Member	Position	Term Expires
Mary Doak	Chair and Planning Comm. Rep	March 31, 2021
Kim Leet	Vice-Chair	March 31, 2022
Mike Russo	Council Representative	December 31, 2021
Denise Willis	Member	March 31, 2023
Jeff Coon	Member	March 31, 2022

2. Attendance

	Doak	Leet	Russo	Willis	Coon
October 15, 2019	P	P	P	P	P
October 18, 2019	P	A	P	P	A

3. Meetings

Zoning Board of Appeals meetings are scheduled as needed.

Meeting Date	Agenda Items
October 15, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Randy Boden, 303 Elms Avenue, setback of accessory building• Dwight & Jacklyn Fleming, 429 Hamilton Street, square footage of an accessory building• Interpretation of Section 20.05 of the Zoning Ordinance, Parking Space Layout, Standards, Construction and Maintenance
October 18, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve minutes from October 15, 2019 meeting

Training

The following training opportunities were offered to Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Members: None this year.

Joint Meetings

The Tawas City Council, Planning Commission, and Downtown Development Authority members were invited to attend a joint meeting on January 13, 2020. The purpose of the joint workshop is to bring together the various members of all the boards that guides and make decisions about the future of the City of Tawas City. Discussions covered the projects the City staff has been working on and the highlights of the various capital improvements plans the City has, as well as the strategies and projects identified in the City's Master Plan and Parks and Recreation Plan.

Redevelopment Ready Communities

The Planning Commission is working on updating the zoning ordinance to incorporate the best practices of the RRC.

Tawas City EYES Program

In the fall of 2019, Tawas City introduced its Empowering Youth with Engagement Strategies (EYES) Program, which created a nonvoting seat on the Tawas City Planning Commission/Park Board for a high school student. The EYES Program was developed to help us look to the future through the eyes of the future by engaging our youth and receiving their perspectives and opinions regarding the very important decisions the City makes about its future. The family of Duane Walters, former mayor of Tawas City, generously offered to make the program a scholarship program and is offering \$500 to the participant.

Riley Klinger was chosen as the first participant in the EYES Program and she attended her first meeting in December 2019. Unfortunately she only had an opportunity to attend two meetings prior to the COVID-19 pandemic when government and business operations were either drastically scaled back or halted completely. In an attempt to keep her engaged in the community, she was tasked with putting together a presentation that highlights the changes in the community as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, and how the community is handling it. Ms. Klinger took photos around the community of signs with businesses closed or empty parking lots, and incorporated photos of essential employees who are working to support the needs of the community through the pandemic. She paired the photos with a song encouraging us to keep holding on because we will make it through. The video was shared and re-shared on social media and had more than 3,300 views in just a month.