

2017 Annual Report to Village of Bear Lake Council Members from Village of Bear Lake Planning Commission

The Planning Commission met 8 times during 2017.

Zoning was much of the topics of discussion during those meetings. Since the Village does not currently have any Zoning, the Planning Commission feels it necessary to have the Village zoned.

In conjunction with the Master Plan, the Planning Commission is concerned with the Business/Residential area. The possibility of a “Business Triangle” beginning at the corner of US 31 and Main Street continuing east to Smith Street and back to US 31 is something that would work as business increases in the Village. The idea is to bring more of the local traffic off of US 31 which would make for more parking.

The Planning Commission also looked at many communities zoning ordinances which are already in place along with Bear Lake Township zoning ordinance. There are many “new” types of zoning including Smart Code and Form Base Code along with the Traditional Zoning. We feel we need to look at all to determine what would best fit best the Village.

The Village has many projects in progress, including the Watershed/ SAW Grant project, the Water/Well initiative, and the Kayak/Canoe Launch. Proposed projects include Hopkins Park, a Sewer Project, the US 31 Corridor, and Streetscape. All of these will involve the Planning Commission in one way or another. As these evolve they will provide some items not currently available: public restrooms along with public spaces.

In the future the Planning Commission will be reviewing the Master Plan and the County Recreation Plan. There will also be Community Outreach meetings for further input on future look of our community.

Two members of the Planning Commission attended the Redevelopment Ready Communities Best Practice Training Series put on by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation at no cost to the Village.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Farfsing, Chairperson