

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
TOWN HALL – MAY 3, 2012 – 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Chairperson Lee Busse, Planning Commissioners Marilyn Cummings, Doug Galler, Lynne Murphy, Rick Robbins, Troy Schifsky and Carole Yoho, Supervisors Matt Beane and David Johnson, Town Board Liaison Jim Hiniker and Planner Dick Thompson.

PUBLIC HEARING – OUTING LODGE PUD AMENDMENT- 7:00 P.M.

Pursuant to notice in the Stillwater Gazette and to surrounding property owners, a public hearing was held to consider a request for an amendment to the existing Planned Unit Development (PUD) for Outing Lodge located at 11661 Myeron Road. The applicant is requesting that the PUD be amended to allow outdoor amplified music at the lodge and to expand the number of bedrooms and other facilities at the lodge. Made a part of the record are the names and addresses of attendees (19) at the hearing.

Chairperson Lee Busse opened the public hearing and introduced Planner Dick Thompson who reviewed the history of the property and summarized the changes the Gohllikes are looking for per the TKDA memorandum dated April 26, 2012.

There were the following questions and comments:

- Wayne Johnson – He is not concerned about the buildings, but the amplified music is too loud. It comes across their field to his house and it is as though he is there. You can hear everything.
- Jesse Kurtz – He lives directly across the lake and he agrees with Wayne. It sounds like they are in his yard. There is no way he would like them to have amplified music. They want to add bedrooms so they can attract more people. When there is an event, the road gets heavy use and people turn around and ask directions at night, traffic noises.
- Lynne Murphy – What is the frequency of events and how late do they go into the night? Doug Galler – Is this primarily on weekends? Kurtz – Yes, events are frequent and it is very loud, both music and voices.
- Damien Labinski – He has a 3-1/2 year old daughter and they hear the noise, swearing, drinking, and partying. They used to hear loons at night. The values of everyone's house would drop. They moved here for peace.
- Mary Parcheta – The trails through the park are beautiful and when you come by the lodge there is trash. The noise does not bother her so much. The people across the lake did not get the notice and they can hear the noise.
- Deb Simonet – They really hear the sounds. They open the door of their building and it is loud. Other places have music and they have restrictions, such as after 10:00 pm they need to go inside and shut the door. Along the trail, there was a large gathering and there was run-off, and the land was soggy and smelly. She wonders how things are checked. She believes Lee Gohlike has done things over the years and does not take care of what he has done.
- Cathy Buck – She works at Pine Point Lodge and lives close by. What the Gohllikes are doing is impressive, especially in view of how the hospitality business is doing. They hire young people in the community. She is not aware of a single complaint about the noise. Steve Nelson issued permits last year without realizing the noise was not permitted. The Gohllikes have always tried to be good neighbors. She hopes there can be some sort of permitting process with decibel readings or noise clouds which absorb noises. We should not keep the Gohllikes from earning an

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honest living which they have done from the 1980s. Most weddings are done before midnight and that could be on the permit. They do not hear noise at their residence but they do hear shooting at the Washington County Sheriff's range and from fireworks downtown.

- Lynne Murphy – How frequent are events? Ten times a year? Buck – They looked through their records and found that is the number from last year.
- Wayne Johnson – He has not called to complain.
- Lee Busse – Please talk to the Board and not to each other.
- Deb Simonet – The neighbors are being respectful that this is a business and that is why they don't call, but they don't want the noise.
- Lee Gohlike – They are not looking for more noise. They are doing what they can to mitigate the noise. They do not have loud rock and roll bands, more like orchestra music. They are okay with putting restrictions on the type of music. This is a big part of their business. They just want an understandable agreement so they know what the rules are.
- Carlotta Gohlike – We have only about 10 events a year. They would like to have music outdoors. If it is too loud or too late, we understand. It has not been done without permission. It will be hard to make wedding couples understand.
- Cathy Buck – She spoke to Steve Nelson when this came up. He had been sending letters to neighbors letting know of an upcoming event and inviting them to contact him if there were any problems.
- Doug Galler – Does anyone have a sample of that letter? – Many said they never got one.
- Karen Johnson – She got a letter a couple of times. They do not get a lot of noise. There is more from the train or shooting at the County garage. There are no noise issues for her.
- Carlotta Gohlike – Other neighbors have parties with a lot more noise and she has not called to complain.
- Deb Simonet – She never received a letter. We haven't complained. Summer weekends are our weekends too and they want to enjoy it.
- Roeland Reyes – He lives on the east side of Loon Lake. He remembers only once time the noise was bad, but it was unbelievably loud. It is always at night and always in the summer.
- Wayne Johnson – They are about 40 acres away from them. He can still hear music in his bedroom even in the winter.
- Carlotta Gohlike – They do not do music outdoors in the winter.

The Clerk read letters from Jesse Kurtz et al., Shari and Robert Clifford, Ken and Sylvia Berwald, Deborah Simonet, Allen Ost and John Cutler into the record.

The public hearing was closed at 7:47 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING – 7:47 P.M.

1. AGENDA – M/S/P Schifsky/Galler moved to adopt the agenda as written. (7 ayes)
2. MINUTES – M/S/P Galler/Murphy moved to approve the April 5, 2012 Stillwater Township Planning Commission Public Hearing and Regular Meeting minutes as written. (7 ayes)
3. OUTING LODGE PUD AMENDMENT – There was discussion of what progress has been made since their 2006 PUD Amendment was issued. Lee Gohlike reported that he had purchased a 30,000 square foot building in Hudson which he will use for storage. The event center is about 90% completed.

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Their house is about 85% complete and should be finished this fall. With respect to the new kitchen and building east of the lodge, the foundation is in. They will meet any deadline. Some things they have may look like junk to some people, but it is not junk. They are well aware they have a lot to do. They want the event center ready for weddings in the next year or so. He has already made 10 loads of things to the Hudson building. Most of their events are for 150 to 170 people. The new event center building is larger and would allow for 300 people. They would like a step by step procedure of what is expected of them. How thorough should the conceptual drawings be?

With respect to the retail shop, this is inside the building and should have little impact.

M/S/P Murphy/Cummings moved to recommend approval of the requested 12 foot by 12 foot arts and crafts retail shop within the main lodge. (6 ayes, Galler nay)

With respect to the porch, the Gohlikes feel the increased size would fit better with their existing structure.

M/S Robbins/Galler moved to deny the 10x40 porch. [Motion and second were withdrawn.]

M/S/P Galler/Yoho moved to table all expansion to existing and new structures until the Planner and owner can come up with more detailed plans. (7 ayes)

With respect to amplified music, it is difficult to regulate outdoor noise. What is the definition of excessive noise? When the event center is complete, the noise issue will be dealt with.

M/S/P Schifsky/Galler moved to leave the amplified music condition as in the 2006 PUD amendment. (7 ayes)

Lee Gohlike said he would like to have some sort of objective criteria to determine what sort of music would be acceptable. Troy Schifsky pointed out their PUD says they must not exceed MPCA standards.

4. WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER – An upcoming newsletter could include some verbiage on nuisance noise. Lynne Murphy is still looking for a replacement for her to represent the Planning Commission on the Communication Committee.

5. NEW BUSINESS – There was none.

6. TOWN BOARD LIAISON REPOORT – Jim Hiniker reported on recent Town Board activities and issues that will be coming to the Planning Commission.

7. ADJOURNMENT – M/S/P Shifsky/Galler moved to adjourn the meeting. (7 ayes)
The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by: Kathy Schmoeckel
Stillwater Township Clerk