

WHITEFISH LAKESHORE PROTECTION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF May 10, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Chairman Herb Peschel.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Herb Peschel, Donna Emerson, Brian Sullivan, Koel Abell, Theodore Roosendahl, Jim Laidlaw, and Joe Malletta. Bailey Minnich of the Whitefish Planning Office was also present.

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA: none

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES:

- Joe moved to approve the April minutes as presented. Brian seconded the motion. All in favor and motion carried.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT: none

Old Business: none

NEW BUSINESS

WLP-16-W06 – Randy Dunlop – Dock and Shore Station

[Present: Cory Izett, Applicant's Representative]

Discussion:

Staff began with a presentation of the proposed project and draft lakeshore permit report. Discussion was held regarding where the subject property is located, the existing dock which will be replaced with this permit application, and shared dock standards. Further discussion occurred on whether the dock should continue to be located in the middle of the subject property or further to the west in order to limit potential navigational issues near the mouth of the Whitefish River. However, there are issues with the water depth both to the west and east of the current dock location. Also, staff discussed the difference between permits for docks on Whitefish River and docks on Whitefish Lake.

Motion:

- Jim moved to approve the permit as presented. Brian seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-2 (Malletta and Abell opposed); the motion carried.

Discussion on Administrative Permits

Staff began with why certain administrative permits are no longer seen by the Committee. These include docks less than 60 feet long that comply with all required dock standards, shore stations, and buoys. Previously, staff could only approve domestic water lines, burning, and dead tree

removal permits administratively. Discussion was held regarding a permit issued by staff in the past winter, and if staff should not have issued the permit. Staff explained the interpretations made by the Planning Office which allowed the permit to ultimately be approved. Further discussion occurred on the validity of previously issued permits, and that approved permits run with the property, not the current property owner. Some members of the Committee would like to develop a way for them to see administrative permit applications before staff issues a permit, in order to review the application for potential problems. Staff explained the potential issues that could occur with time limits and the overall process. It was discussed that staff put any received applications in the private Lakeshore Committee folder on Dropbox and allow interested Committee members a chance to review the applications. However, this process would need to be discussed with the Planning Director and potentially the City Attorney.

STAFF NOTICE

Staff mentioned the Flathead County Planning Board meeting will be held the next evening, regarding updating the County's lakeshore regulations, and invited the committee members to attend. Staff will be present to provide comments on behalf of the City of Whitefish, which are the same as the comments Staff presented at the County Planning Board Work Session in March. Also discussed was how the City of Whitefish determined the high water elevation of Whitefish Lake in April 2015. Brian has provided data to the Whitefish Lake Institute for summer 2015 levels which could be used to calculate the last 5 consecutive years' high water elevation, and potentially change the high water elevation on Whitefish Lake. Staff indicated they would contact the WLI and start that process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm.

NEXT MEETING

**June 8, 2016 * 6:00pm
Whitefish Planning & Building Office
510 Railway Street – Whitefish, MT**