

Baraga Township Planning Commission - MINUTES

Regular Meeting and Public Hearing – January 21, 2026, 6:00 PM

Baraga Township Hall, 13919 M-38, Baraga, MI 49908

1. Meeting called to order at 6:06 PM by Chairperson Dale Parkila.
2. Roll Call: Present - Dale Parkila, Nick Lozier, Bonnie Dompier, Dianne Koskinen; Absent – Jerry Dompier. Chairperson Dale Parkila declared that a quorum is present. The sign-in sheet was completed with eight public in attendance.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Approval of January 21, 2026, regular meeting and public hearing AGENDA
 - a. Discussion and Additions: Under New Business, item 9b (Special Use Permit #012126-2), the applicant requested that the item be tabled. Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy stated that the Planning Commission has two options regarding a special use permit: Deny the permit, after which the applicant could reapply in one year; or table the item to the April 8, 2026, meeting.
 - b. Motion: A motion was made by Dianne Koskinen, supported by Nick Lozier, to approve the January 21, 2026, regular meeting and public hearing AGENDA with one edit: to table item 9b-table Special Use Permit #012126-2 to the April 8, 2026, meeting.
 - i. Vote: The motion passed by a roll call vote of 4-0. Ayes: Nick Lozier, Dianne Koskinen, Bonnie Dompier, Dale Parkila. Nays: None. Absent: Jerry Dompier.
5. Approval of December 3, 2025, special meeting MINUTES
 - a. Discussion: Bonnie Dompier noted that in items 4 and 5, the name “Tikkanen” should be corrected to “Parkila.” She also recommended including first names for clarity, as there are now two commissioners with the last name Dompier.
 - b. Motion: A motion was made by Dianne Koskinen, supported by Dale Parkila, to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2025, special meeting with two corrections.
 - i. Vote: The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Nick Lozier, Dianne Koskinen, Bonnie Dompier, Dale Parkila. Nays: None. Absent: Jerry Dompier.
6. Public Comment on AGENDA items only

- a. Discussion: The rules for public comment were reviewed. Public comment is generally limited to three minutes during which the Planning Commission listens without engaging in discussion. The time limit may be extended at the discretion of the Commission. Members of the public are asked to state their name and address before offering comments.
 - b. Phil LaCourt, 13003 Tervo RD, Baraga, made comments.
 - c. Catherine Andrews, 11393 DesRocher RD, Baraga: made comments.
7. Correspondence:
- a. Jason McCarthy - Northwoods Planning & Zoning Services - Memorandum January 21, 2026, Subject: Baraga Township Zoning Ordinance Update DRAFT
 - i. Highlights: Key items included data centers, short-term rentals, amendment procedures for zoning ordinances and the zoning map, and general formatting improvements.
 - ii. Next steps are to hold a special meeting to review the draft, schedule a public hearing, present the draft to the Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region (WUPPDR), and then present it to the Baraga Township Board.
 - b. Pete W. Ryan – Letter January 21, 2026, RE: Quarry Point Resort, LLC – Special Use Permit
 - i. Summary: The letter expressed concerns regarding the special use permit approval process and the potential impacts the proposed project may have on surrounding properties and landowners.
 - c. Michelle Halley - email January 21, 2026, forwarded email from Jeremy Pickens, Subject: Quarry Point Resort SUP Application to Baraga Twp PC
 - i. Summary: request to hold the application in abeyance until April 2026.
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business
- a. Special Use Permit Public Hearing #012126-1:
 - i. The Planning Commission reviewed the procedure for public hearings: The Chairperson reads the agenda item, Commissioners offer initial comments, and the Chairperson opens the public hearing. After public comment is received, the Chairperson closes the public hearing. The Commissioners then discuss the application and may ask questions of the applicant, if present, followed by a motion and vote.

- ii. Chairperson Dale Parkila read the agenda item, received Commissioner comments, and opened the public hearing at 7:05 PM. No public comment was presented.
 - iii. Chairperson Dale Parkila closed the public hearing at 7:06 PM.
 - iv. The Planning Commission reviewed the five conditions for approval of a special use permit, asked applicant for clarification, and found this application meets the requirements, contingent on conditions 1 and 2 being completed.
 - v. Motion: A motion was made by Dianne Koskinen, supported by Nick Lozier, to approve Special Use Permit #012126-1, contingent to conditions 1 and 2.
 - vi. Vote: The motion passed by a roll call vote of 4-0. Ayes: Nick Lozier, Dianne Koskinen, Bonnie Dompier, Dale Parkila. Nays: None. Absent: Jerry Dompier.
- b. Special Use Permit Public Hearing #012126-2: Tabled to April 8, 2026, regular meeting.
10. Public Comment (all other items)
- a. Phil LaCourt, 13003 Tervo Road, Baraga, asked a question regarding the zoning draft and noted that Section 19 appeared to be missing. Zoning Administrator Jason McCarthy responded that the document is a draft and will be reviewed before moving forward.
 - b. Pete Ryan, 307 East C Street, Iron Mountain, verbally thanked the Planning Commission for their efforts and commented that it is beneficial to have Jason McCarthy on board.
11. General Planning Commission Discussion: The Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, February 5, 2026, to discuss the Zoning Ordinance Update DRAFT.
12. Adjournment
- a. A motion was made by Dianne Koskinen, supported by Nick Lozier, to adjourn at 7:34 PM.
 - i. Vote: The motion passed unanimously. Ayes: Nick Lozier, Dianne Koskinen, Bonnie Dompier, Dale Parkila. Nays: None. Absent: Jerry Dompier.

The next regular meeting of the Baraga Township Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 6:00 PM.