



League of Women Voters Northern Lower Michigan

Observer Corps Summaries May 2022

Emmet County Commission

Date: 05/09/2022
Notes: Those in attendance included local residents, political candidates and many who spoke against public transit.
Issues: Should the league take a stance on public transit?

Date: 05/19/2022
Notes: There was an affordable housing update by Planning and Zoning director. Reduction to 560 sq. ft. minimum for new housing, ADUs, 126 single family housing units over next several years, 150 additional units among other plans to address this issue.
Those in attendance included anti- transit, anti – Bay Bluffs millage people and there was one anti-transit letter read aloud.
Issues: None

Petoskey City Council

Date: 05/02/2022
Notes: Sarah Ford from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Community Foundation gave a brief presentation on the Lofts at Lumber Square project. The plan is to secure the property for workforce housing.
During public comment, residents expressed concern about the East Lake Street Project about the short cement sidewalks and steps being removed from the City right of way. They are infrastructure and should remain. They commented that it diminishes home values. City Manager remarked that the City can remove objects in the right of way.

Issues To Watch None

Date: 05/16/2022
Notes: Nothing to report

Issues To Watch None

Bear Creek Township

Date: 05/04/2022
Notes: WETLANDS: a study will be performed on Click road property. LIGHT POLLUTION: proseed for consideration that streetlights be installed where county roads intersect with M-119, US-31, and US – 131.

Three candidates for county commissioner and one concerned citizen were in attendance.

Issues: None

Harbor Springs City Council

Date: 05/02/2022
Notes: Short Term Rentals (STRs) and Affordable Housing. The item that prompted the most discussion was a proposal by the Planning Commission for a moratorium or application due date for STR's to give time for more study about how to either limit or manage STRs in Harbor Springs. Two Council members excused themselves from voting since they own STR property. In my opinion, however, their involvement in the discussion had a chilling effect since they were defensive about any criticism of STRs and their impact. Several citizens also commented. Topics included possible negative impact, the new City regulation program, complaints, rising cost of housing, right to own property, changing nature of Harbor Springs, and the need for more data such as how many, where, trends, and complaints. In the end the vote was 2-1 for a moratorium, but the interpretation was that they needed 3 for a majority so the motion failed. The Council then asked the Assessor/Zoning Administrator for a comprehensive report on STRs before taking any further action.

Issues: Continue to follow the STR issue.

Date: 05/16/2022
Notes: Roads were of interest and citizens are taking initiative to make posters to help change the Headley Amendment through a vote.

Issues: None

Charlevoix County Commissioners

Date: 05/11/2022
Notes: Nothing to report
Issues: None

Cheboygan County Commissioners

Date: 05/10/2022
Notes: Nothing to report
Issues: None

Board of Health

Date: 05/03/2022
Notes: There were many questions from a couple of commissioners about costs, activities, about materials that they received on social determinants of health. HD staff were very patient in explaining their work and the rationales for it. Bennie/Leelanau BOH requested a joint meeting, some commissioners were not sure it would be of value to the NWMHD board.

There was contentious discussion about the proposed changes to the rules for public comment, but it was passed without changes.