



# Zoning Newsletter

## Special Information

- Planning Commission meets the 2nd Thursday of each month. Additional meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month as needed.
- Zoning Board of Appeals meets as necessary which is typically once a month.
- Zoning Department is open from 8-12 and 1-5 Monday through Friday.

## Permits

Permits for a number of activities are obtain through the Zoning Department. Please call us.

- New homes
- Additions
- Fences
- Decks
- Sheds
- Garages
- Signs
- Pools
- Ponds
- Earth moving activities near a lake or stream
- Tree removal
- Demolition

## Ordinance Gets A New Look

The Zoning Ordinance is a tool for guiding the physical development of land. The first Benzie County Zoning Ordinance was adopted in 1976. Over time the Ordinance has evolved into a highly technical and sophisticated document.

The Benzie County Planning Commission is currently in the process of rewriting the Ordinance. The rewrite will give a new look, feel and ease of use. Leading this effort is the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Committee, also known as the Z.O.R.C. The ZORC is made up of Planning Commission member and staff. The primary goal of this group is to create a zoning ordinance that is an exten-

sion of the County 2020 Comprehensive Plan. The ZORC intends to create an Ordinance that is representative of Planning and Zoning program that is the finest of its kind.

Though work on an ordinance can be tedious at times, ZORC meetings have a tendency to be fascinating and peppered with lively discussion.

Rewrite of the Ordinance began some time ago and recent activities have created a sense of urgency to finish the work as soon as it is practical. Current focus is on three areas, they are: improvements to special land use crite-



ria, providing better definition for government owned lands and upgrades to zoning area classifications. In addition, an overlay for protective measures around Turtle Lake is nearly complete.

Through efforts of the ZORC, Benzie County will soon have a Zoning Ordinance with a new look.

## It All Starts With Land

Mark Twain said, "Buy land, they're not making it anymore". Land in Benzie County is important to all who call it their home. What we do with this land defines who we are as a community. We define what we

do as a community, in part, through the land planning and zoning creation process.

Benzie County is looking for a few good men and women to join the Planning Commission and

Zoning Board of Appeals. We are looking for help in the quest of creating land use methods for the community that is Benzie County. Contact us here at the Government Center more information at (231)882-0035.