

2018 – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

(April 2018 – March, 2019)

Planning Commission Members: Gerald Eidt, (chair), Rex LaMore (vice-chair), Joscelyn Brown-Timm (secretary), Commissioners Annette Davis, Dali Giese, Toby Weston, Rob Stanford (vice-chair), Jim Flore and Trustee Janet Eyster.

Commissioners Davis, Giese and Stanford were reappointed for 3 year terms to the PC by the Township Board at the 9/12/18 meeting

Staff: Mike Deem and Susan Cronander, McKenna Associates; and Jim Howard

Meetings

The September 26, 2018 meeting was rescheduled to October 3rd to accommodate attendance at the Ingham-MTA Chapter meeting. The remainder of the meetings were scheduled on the 4th Wednesday of every other month.

Rezoning

None

Subdivision Plat

Brookstone Estates: PC recommended approval of Final Preliminary Plat with conditions to the Township Board at the October 3, 2018 meeting; approved by Township Board with the conditions at the October 10, 2018 meeting.

Zoning Ordinance

- The Small Wineries/Hard Cider/Distilleries Amendment was approved by the Twp. Bd. at their June 13, 2018 meeting
- Solar Energy Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance was approved, and recommended for adoption by the Township Board at the July 25, 2018 PC meeting; the Township Board approved the amendment at the December 12, 2018 meeting.
- A review of the uses allowed in the I-1 district was initiated at the July, 2018 meeting, at the request of the Township Board; a review committee was formed which made recommendation of minor changes; public hearing was held January 23, 2019 and the PC approved a motion recommending approval of the change to the Township Board; the Township Board approved the recommended changes at its February 13, 2019 meeting.
- Review of ZO language related to farms / “events centers” was initiated at the January, 2019 meeting, with draft language from McKenna reviewed at the March, 2019 meeting.

Other Ordinances

Elections Committee & Related

- Slate of Jerry Eidt as chair, Rob Stanford as vice-chair and Joscelyn Brown-Timm as secretary was approved at November 28, 2018 meeting

Misc.

The 2017-2018 Annual Report was accepted at the May meeting and forwarded to the Township Board.

A Master Plan Review Committee was formed and met on May 17, 2018 to discuss the status of the plan; a recommendation was made by the Committee to the PC to not initiate a formal review of the plan at this time, and maintain the Review committee as a “standing” committee while the Rec Plan and other documents are revised.

The “Solar Powering Sunnyside” program was presented on June 27, 2018 facilitated by Harmony Gmazel of MSU Extension, with 6 commissioners in attendance.

A special work session was held on 1/23/19 prior to the regular PC meeting to discuss the RTFA as it relates to Williamstown Township’s Z O, and “event centers,” with a special presentation by Catherine Kaufman (MTA legal services).

ZBA Meetings

There were 6 ZBA meetings during the April, 2018 – March, 2019 period;

2 involved the use of automatic pool covers in place of a fence.

Land Divisions

There were 6 splits and 1 combination of parcels during 2018

Building Permits – New Homes

9 permits were issued for new home construction during the fiscal year.

6 – solar permits were issued for the FY.