

**MINUTES**  
**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**  
**September 21, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Williamstown Township Planning Commission convened at 7:30 pm at the Williamstown Township Hall located at 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston, Michigan. Chairman Mike Fielek called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

**PRESENT BY ROLL CALL:**

Chairman, Mike Fielek, Commissioners Gerald Eidt, Dali Giese, Rod Imhoff, Ger Schultink, Wanda Bloomquist

**ABSENT:** Vice Chairman Rex LaMore, Commissioner Ronald Cook and Board Representative Martin Wright

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Planning Consultant: Chris Doozan of McKenna Associates, Inc.

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Approval of Minutes—July 20, 2010 and August 17, 2010

Chairman Fielek recommended changes in the motion of the Minutes Approval and the Adjournment motion. The changes were noted and will be amended.

**Motion by** Commissioner Imhoff to approve the minutes of July 20, 2010, as amended  
**Seconded by** Commissioner Schultink. **Motion approved.**

Chairman Fielek recommended changes on page 1, paragraph 2 and page 2, paragraph 2. The changes were noted and will be amended.

**Motion by** Commissioner Bloomquist to approve the minutes of August 17, 2010, as amended  
**Seconded by** Commissioner Imhoff. **Motion approved.**

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

Chairman Fielek opened up public comment at 7:35

Supervisor Martin shared it will be the last meeting for taking the Planning Commission Minutes for Debbie Schultz, as she plans to spend more time utilizing her Real Estate license.

Closed public comment 7:40

**New Business**

**Introduction of newly appointed Planning Commissioner**—Supervisor Martin introduced Joscelyn Brown-Timm as the newly appointed Planning Commissioner. Ms. Brown-Timm shared she has lived in the township since 1976, is married to a tri-athlete has pets, but no children, and works for an Insurance Company in Risk Governance.

**Rezoning-Gregory Shannon**—Dr. Shannon is requesting rezoning on parcel #03-08-100-003. The request is for AG-SF from AG-C. A letter dated June 20, 2007 was included in the packet to remind planning commissioners and Dr. Shannon of the parcel #'s and possible splits available.

Dr. Shannon explained the current zoning is very costly. All other surrounding property in this area is zoned AG-SF except for this parcel that he owns. There are no services required; the well and septic make lots indigenous. The request for rezoning will bring his property into conformity with surrounding property.

Mr. Fielek shared the Planning Commission will call for a Public Hearing to discuss Dr. Shannon's request to rezone parcel #03-08-100-003 from AG-C to AG-SF. The Public Hearing will be scheduled and held at the next Planning Commission meeting in October.

**Motion by** Commissioner Schultink to call a Public Hearing on the Rezoning of Parcel 33-03-03-08-100 at regular meeting of the Planning Commission in October.

**Supported by** Commissioner Giese. **Motion approved.**

*It was recommended under Unfinished Business—Medical Marihuana Report be reported next.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Commissioner Eidt recommended this item be moved up on the agenda).

**Medical Marihuana Report**—Supervisor Martin shared the Board passed a six month moratorium in order to give the Planning Commissioners more time to address regulations regarding Medical Marihuana. A copy of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act initiated law of 2008 was provided as a reference while working on regulations. Supervisor Martin shared she is working with Tri-County on a task force-committee that is working on common definitions for dispensaries in hopes it will bring consistency and understanding for those working to adhere to the Medical Marihuana Law.

New Business cont...

**Sub Committee Appointment**—Election of Officers—Commissioner Fielek shared it is that time of year again to consider serving on the sub-committee for election of officers. Volunteers include Dali Giese and Joscelyn Brown-Timm.

### **By-Laws Review**

3.3 Status. Remove: Planning Staff are not members of the Commission and do not vote. Add: "An employee of the township shall not serve on the planning commission."

4.9 Outside Interests. Commissioner Schultink has recommended a change in the following statement: Any Commission member who has a **direct or indirect financial interest** or **a discernable** personal interest in a matter before the Commission shall **excuse** themselves from the commission and not participate in that portion of the meeting or hearing at which the matter is to be considered, with such action noted in the minutes. The mere fact of a Commissioner's residence or ownership of property near or in the area affected by a proposal shall not constitute a conflict of interest.

6.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST—Commissioner Schultink would like to add "direct financial or discernable personal interest from this language also. Commissioners should be allowed to **withdraw** or **excuse** themselves when appropriate.

It was recommended By-Laws Review return as an agenda item at the October meeting in order to leave open for commissioners that are not in attendance at tonight's meeting to have an opportunity to review recommended changes before adoption.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Ordinance Review Article 8**—Chairman Fielek opened Article 8 with W. Open Air Business and closed at Recreation Facilities. There were no changes to any of the articles discussed.

EECBG Grant

**Trails & Greenways**—Commissioner Bloomquist shared the competition is underway and will end in October. There will be a workshop planned in October to go over the results of the competition. More to follow. There were 12-15 people in attendance at the last 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday's Series on Composting. Pat Lindemann was the speaker for the Rain Gardens Series. The Bus Stop has been ordered and moving forward.

PLANNING AND BOARD REPORTS AND REVIEW

**Township Board**— Supervisor Martin shared the Township Board meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. on October 6 in order to discuss police protection, Open House is planned for Saturday October 2, at the Historical Branch School, on October 23 there will be a Columbarium dedication at Summit Cemetery.

**Planning Staff**—Wanda Bloomquist shared there will be an Annual Planners Association Conference in October that she will be attending in Detroit. In a Planning Commission meeting she attended at Meridian Township she shared they are looking at Commercial Planned Unit Development (C-PUD) and she provided Planning Commissioners a copy of the draft C-PUD. There has not been any interest shown in a joint meeting with Meridian Township Planning Commission nor the City of Williamston. The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has a draft of the Greening Mid-Michigan Map they would like to share at the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Wanda will make plans for this presentation.

**Planning Consultant Doozan**—shared two Supreme Court cases (a gravel mining case) and (Handy vs. Putnam Twp.) The outcome of these cases weighed heavily on good planning backed by solid research and the importance of townships following all procedures in a process and not skipping steps.

**Planning Commission Chair**—No report

**Review**

Chairman Fielek provided the Planning Commission with a review of tonight's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by** Commissioner Imhoff to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

**Supported by** Commissioner Bloomquist. **Motion approved.**

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Gerald A. Eidt, Secretary

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Debbie Schultz, Recording Secretary