

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
November 17, 2009**

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, Ronald Cook, Rod Imhoff and Wanda Bloomquist and Board Representative Martin Wright

ABSENT: Vice Chairman, Rex LaMore, Commissioner Ger Schultink and Building Inspector Bob Delaney

ALSO PRESENT:

Planning Consultants: Chris Doozan & Zeb Acuff of McKenna Associates.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

**Motion by Commissioner Cook to approve the minutes of October 20, 2009.
Seconded by Commissioner Imhoff. Motion approved.**

CITIZEN COMMENT (NON- AGENDA ITEMS)--None

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim Froehlich – CATA Overview

Jim Froehlich, Aaron Borton, and Joe Manzella, representatives of CATA were present to provide information on CATA Transportation services that are available to the Williamston Community. The programs highlighted included: Fixed Route, Para Transits, Redi/Ride, Connectors, and Shopping Bus. The Fixed Route (Route #48), goes through Williamston and Webberville and is geared towards an 8:00 – 5:00 p.m. work week. For detailed information on the aforementioned routes residents can contact the Customer Link at (517) 349-1000.

Chairman Fielek shared a couple of projects including the Senior Center and the Grand River Corridor that would ultimately need mass transit services and wondered if CATA would be an option. Mr. Manzella shared land use that supports higher density planning has a lot to do with how transportation routes are determined. It was recommended the township contact Joe Manzella, CATA System Planner, when considering new developments. Mr. Manzella is working on a transportation study and invited township participation. For information on upcoming meetings for go to www.cata.org.

Election of Officers

Commissioner Bloomquist shared the nominating committee charged with nominating a slate of officers for Williamstown Township Planning Commission for the 2010-11 fiscal year will bring forward existing officers to serve another term: Chairman, Mike Fielek; Vice-Chairman, Rex LaMore; and Secretary, Gerald Eidt.

Motion to approve the slate of officers for the 2010-11 term by Commission Bloomquist.

Supported by Commission Giese. Carried Unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Review Article 6—Walls and fences

Zeb Acuff of McKenna & Associates, Inc. provided the Planning Commission a summary of Zoning Changes from the 10/20 PC Meeting: After final review of 6.01E, 6.02A.3b, and 6.02B, it was recommended further discussion take place on the following articles: 6.02A.3b **Fences on Corner Parcels** be discussed further as it relates to Article 2, Section 2.09 unobstructed site distance #4, 6.02B.1 **Maximum Height** should read 6 ft not 5 ft, 6.03A **Corner Clearance** will be effected by this discussion, 6.03B **Wall, Fence and Gate Materials**, “Barbed wire may be permitted in non-residential districts, provided that the barbed wire is at least six (6) feet above the ground” in Industrial and Commercial Districts, does not include Ag-Commercial.

Review Article 7

Zeb Acuff of McKenna & Associates, Inc. provided the Planning Commission a summary of Zoning Changes from 10/20 PC Meeting: After final review of articles 7.05B15, 7.07E, 7.07E2, 7.07E5 and 7.08H.4, it was recommended further discussion take place on the following articles 7.07E.5—**Religious Institutions** removed the word Churches and replaced with Religious Institutions need consensus for this change, 7.08H.4—**Electronic Changeable Copy** need to use consistent language found in article *Prohibited Signs (page 7-9)* and *Off Premises Advertising Signs (page 7-10)*.

Commissioner Fielek shared Articles 3 through Article 7 will return for a recap in December 2009. The Planning Commission will then call for a Public Hearing in January 2010.

PLANNING AND BOARD REPORTS AND REVIEW

Township Board—Board Representative Wright

- The Township will enter into a contract with Assoc. Government Services (AGS) for electrical, mechanical and plumbing building permits. These fees will be comparable to state fees, but with this service it will be more convenient for residents of Williamstown Township.
- Continuing to discuss the 2010 budget process
- County police coverage will be in place in Williamstown Township through calendar year 2010

Planning Staff—Commissioner Bloomquist

- There is a need for a meeting in December, received a Special Use Permit--Apartment (residential)
- Anticipating our first conditional rezoning request. Location is within the Grand River Corridor (encompasses MDOT rest area)—Currently zoned rural estates, anticipating a request to change to RS1.
- Workshop information—Low Impact Development Standards Disk—lots of recommendations on zoning and suggested ordinances. Tri County is planning a charrette sometime in February. Wanda will provide date at a later time.
- Budget
- Chairman Fielek shared information on a meeting last Wednesday November 11, 2009 — FRIB on MSU Campus—There may be spin off development from that project.

Review

Presentation from CATA

Election of Officers – Nominating Committee elected same slate

Completed Review of Articles 6 & 7

Heard Regular Board Reports

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Bloomquist to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Supported by Commissioner Cook. Motion approved.

Gerald A. Eidt, Secretary

Planning/Minutes/2009/111709

Debbie Schultz, Recording Secretary