

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
August 17, 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, Vice-Chairman Rex LaMore, Commissioners Ronald Cook, Gerald Eidt, Dali Giese, Rod Imhoff, Ger Schultink, Wanda Bloomquist, Board Representative Martin Wright

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT:

Planning Consultants: Chris Doozan and Zeb Acuff of McKenna Associates, Inc.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Approval of Minutes—It was recommended the Minutes of July 20, 2010, be pulled in order to provide Planning Commissioners time for review. It was recommended this item be brought back for action at the September 2010 Planning Commission meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Open Citizens Comment 7:35 p.m.

Closed Public comment 7:35 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Deliberation: Amendments to the Wetland Ordinance

Planning Consultant, Chris Doozan, recommended the following amendments to the Wetland Ordinance:

Ordinance Item	Recommended Change
2-3 Lot Definition	Add “metes and bounds” to Building Site...words describe as “metes and bounds”...
3-2 Wetland Definition Process	Findings of the processes...”valid for 3 years”... (remove “valid for 3 years)
Ingham County Wetland Inventory Map	Add a <i>statement to this section that an Ingham County Wetland Inventory Map will be held at Williamstown Township Hall</i>
5-3, Item 2.B	Add the word “completed” as upon “completed” application.

Motion by Commissioner Schultink to recommend to the Township Board the adoption of the amended Wetland Ordinance.

Supported by Commissioner Eidt. **Motion Approved.**

Medical Marihuana—Chairman Fielek shared the Planning Commission received correspondence from Carl McIntosh, Carol Dickenson, Sandy Metz, Tom and Jan Johnson and John Kennedy. Also received a recommendation from the Township Board for the Planning Commission to continue to work on an ordinance for this type of business. The Township Board is looking into the possibility of putting a moratorium in place while the Planning Commission works on the ordinance.

McKenna and Associates, Inc provided a memorandum dated, August 4, 2010, in reference to the regulation of medical marihuana facilities. The proposal is to allow medical marihuana facilities in the OS-1 district. The Planning Commissioners received a copy of recommended revisions to the Williamstown Township Zoning Ordinance to Permit Medical Marihuana use in the OS-1 office service district.

The Planning Commissioners provided the following comments in reference to the regulation of medical marihuana facilities: Residential Zoning may not be a good place for this type of business, keep this type of business unnoticeable and traffic at a minimum, get as close to the intent of the law as passed by voters, plan to accommodate the public-at-large, consider “special use” in residential districts, keep away from smaller RS-1 district.

In conclusion, the Planning Commission recommended they receive a copy of the Marihuana Law, Ordinance’s for review that are in place in Lansing and Grand Rapids for this type of business, information from Supervisor Martin on a moratorium while the Planning Commission’s ordinance is being developed. It is recommended these items be available for review and discussion at the September 2010 Planning Commission meeting.

Ordinance Review Article 8—Mini-Warehouses (8-16)

Subject	Recommendation
Portable Storage (PODS) Portable on Demand Storage	It was recommended a separate category be added for this type of service.
Rental	With Wheels Without Wheels Commercial use should be added
Permitted Use	Put a period after the word “only”. All such storage should be contained within an enclosed building.
Lot Coverage	This is covered in Commercial Center District. Addressed in “set backs” page 21-4.
Temporary Storage	Empty PODS for lease or rent should meet standards for mini-warehouses
Motels	No Changes
Nursing Homes	3 Acre Minimum (this was only for assisted living) All other references other than the term “Nursing Home” should be deleted as the remaining terms are archaic and no longer in existence.
Oil and Gas Processing Plants	Setbacks?
Other approvals	Many have changed and need to revise

EECBG Grant

Trails & Greenways—Planning Commissioner Bloomquist shared:

Activity	Details
Trails and Greenways: <u>2nd</u> <u>Thursday Series</u>	August 12, Rain Gardens September 9 Composting October 14, Wind-n-Solar All sessions will be held at the Township Hall and begin at 7pm.
Light Bulb Exchange	This event will be held on election day.
Parks	Park-n-Ride at Williamstown Township Park – the curb and gutter is in.

EECBG Grant

Trails & Greenways continued...

Activity	Details
Composting Toilet at Cemetery	Looking for an eagle scout to take on as a project
Grand River Green Zone	Subcommittee met with Planning Commissioner Doozan to work on language
Trails and Greenways Focus Group	Meeting is scheduled for August 18 at 4 pm. With sub-committee meeting at 6:00
Grand River Expansion of Shoulders for Bike Lanes(Zimmer Road to Meridian West)	Paving will take place this week.

PLANNING AND BOARD REPORTS AND REVIEW

Township Board— Board Representative Martin Wright shared the Township Board discussed: Police Protection--the majority of the Townships are on board with Police Protection. Plans to hold a Townhall meeting in September and October are underway in order to inform local residents of the goal of townships to provide police protection. The Township Board adopted the suggested revisions to the Township Zoning Ordinance, articles #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7.

Planning Staff—Commissioner Bloomquist shared actions of the Meridian Township Board and will forward the minutes of their meeting to the Planning Commissioners. She recommends the Planning Commission approach Meridian Township about having a joint meeting sometime in October. It was also recommended the Planning Commission approach the City of Williamston about having a joint meeting in February 2011.

Urban and Rural Service Boundary—Committee will begin meeting again in September.

Planning Commission Chair—None

Review

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Cook to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 p.m.

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

Gerald A. Eidt, Secretary

Debbie Schultz, Recording Secretary