

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
November 19, 2014
Minutes**

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. Chair Giese called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

PRESENT: Chair Giese, Vice Chair LaMore, Secretary Eidt, Commissioners DeShon, Korson, Brown-Timm, Weston, and Trustee Eyster

ABSENT: Commissioner Davis

ALSO PRESENT: Planning Consultant Chris Doozan of McKenna Associates and Planning Assistant Wanda Bloomquist

MINUTES APPROVAL

Commissioner DeShon moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2014

Seconded by Secretary Eidt

Motion approved

PUBLIC COMMENT

None- Closed at 7:33 pm

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Vice Chair LaMore reviewed the recommended slate of officers for the 2014-15 year of Gerald Eidt as Chair, Rex LaMore as Vice-Chair and Joscelyn Brown-Timm as Secretary. The request was made for nominations from the floor.

Commissioner Korson moved to close the floor for nominations and to unanimously elect the recommended slate as officers for the 14-15 year.

Seconded by Commissioner DeShon.

Discussion: none

Motion Approved

Chair Eidt thanked Commissioner Giese for her willingness to chair the Commission and the great job she did this past year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Agri-tourism

Janet reviewed the concerns of the Board with Commissioners. Clarification on the definition of an event and Minor/Major activities were unclear in the proposed language.

Discussion included:

- Add exceptions of roadside stand to 12.
- Chris explained that the acreage for minor event is referring to the actual acreage used on the site.
- Difference between u-pick and farm that expands that use.

- Discussed GAAMPS for farm markets.
- Discussed table on page 3: Minor would be a permissible use and major would require special use.
- Suggestion of events based on seasons: one event per quarter. Duration would be 3 weeks per event. Three weeks per season seems major per calendar year of events lasting three weeks each.
- Adding the acreage per event would be helpful.
- How would it add up if only open 2 days a week. Need to clear up the dates for use. Need to address 21 days being consecutive days.
- Concern over property owner's rights and the rights of neighbors due to events.
- Special Use could limit the number of events. Hours and number of visitors could be addressed.
- Right to Farm creates issues with the Farm Market GAAMPS. GAAMPS Site Selection added another category. Issues arise when going from a Farm Market to adding events. Discussed items that can be sold that are not part of the farm. Should mention GAAMPS for farm markets as an exclusion. The farm market GAAMPS would allow for some sale of cider or hot choc etc. if it follows the GAAMP guidelines.
- Chris will take comments and bring back for review at the January meeting.

City of Williamston/Williamstown Township

Joint meeting statement

Vice Chair LaMore reviewed the joint meeting statement with Commissioners. City of Williamston will be reviewing the letter at their next meeting. This statement allows for agreement on the general principal and leave the details to the respective communities to develop. It was agreed to add language to address more zoning issues. With the new County millage for trails, this may be a good starting point along with public transportation. Planning Assistant Bloomquist will add additional language with review by Vice Chair LaMore. Will be submitted to the City of Williamston Planning Commission for review.

Planning and Board Reports and Review

Township Board

- Trustee Eyster reviewed the Board's position based on the vote for the road millage. The votes came in closer than she had anticipated. Suggested Commissioners drive Branch Rd. to know what ground up asphalt is like
- Trustee Eyster noted that the municipal code enforcement is ready. This should result in speedier compliance with code issues at a lesser cost to the Township.

Planning Staff

- Brian Ruh is hoping to have the site plan ready for the Commissioners review by the April meeting.
- The MTA conference is scheduled for January 28th through the 30th.
- Reminder that the next meeting will be in January.

Planning Chair

Chair Eidt thanked Commissioner Giese for her service to the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Closed at 8:49

Review

Minutes reviewed and approved

Election of Officers

Consultant, Chris Doozan, will submit Agri=tourism revisions based on this evening's discussion.

Reviewed the Joint Meeting Statement.

Commissioner Korson moved to Adjourn

Seconded by Secretary Brown-Timm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51

**Wanda Bloomquist,
Recording Secretary**

Secretary Joscelyn Brown-Timm