

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
August 20, 2013
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 LaMore called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

PRESENT: Chair LaMore, Vice Chair Dali Giese, Secretary Eidt, Commissioners Schultink, Joscelyn Brown Timm, Annette Davis and Trustee Rick Williams.

ABSENT: Commissioner Rick DeShon

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

Secretary Eidt moved to approve the minutes of May 21, 2013

Seconded by Vice Chair Giese

Motion Carries

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Rex LaMore stated his concern over the removal of significant trees with the Zimmer Rd. improvements. The charm of the tree covered road has been compromised. Vegetation will reestablish with time. Bridge design does not promote the rural character of the Township.

Discussion:

Tree Ordinance would help with protection.

A Tree Ordinance would not protect the right of way.

Natural Beauty Road designation is the only means of protection within the right of way.

Would like to meet with the road committee for discussion of the 5 year plan.

Commissioner Schultink moved the Planning Commission meet with the Road Committee to discuss the 5 year plan and discuss context sensitive design issues.

Seconded by Secretary Eidt.

Motion Carries.

Public Comment closed at 7:42.

NEW BUSINESS

Parks and Rec Master Plan

Chris Doozan reviewed the importance of the Goals and Objectives in the planning process.

The Parks and Rec Committee is working on the updates, the Planning Commission will review and the Board will approve the final plan.

Chris reviewed the 12 Goals with the Commissioners as outlined in the material provided.

Discussion:

- Suggest adding protection of historic properties and critical habitat.
- Green Infrastructure: Look at the activity of other communities.

- As part of the HUD sustainability grant, students may begin working on the feasibility of a regional trail for our area.

Park Capital Improvements

Planning Assistant Bloomquist reviewed the improvements for the park to include composting/evaporating toilets, pavilion, volleyball courts and walkway. The goal of the Parks and Rec Committee is to provide more opportunity for park use in the area between the active sports use and passive use of the prairie trail area and to promote or showcase methods of construction that are sustainable in design. Use of porous pavement, rain gardens for run-off, etc. The Board has approved a budget for improvements along with a grant received from the Rotary and individuals totally \$72,000. Design and construction management will be done by LaFollette Custom Homes. Steve Eyke, owner is also a resident of the Township. Construction will be done with volunteers.

Joint Meeting with Board

A joint meeting with the Board has been scheduled for September 17th to discuss the sustainable assessment of our Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance. The Township is part of a pilot program in the development of the assessment tool. Wayne Beyea, from MSU, will be doing the presentation. Meeting will begin at 6:00.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Master Plan Review

Comments were reviewed from Tri County Regional Planning, the City of Williamston Planning Commission and Locke Township.

Secretary Eidt motioned to hold a Public Hearing for comments on the proposed Master Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Brown-Timm.

Discussion:

- Once all comments have been resolved and amendments made, the Planning Commission must adopt the Master Plan by resolution.

Planning and Board Reports and Review

Township Board

- Trustee Williams reviewed the actions of the Board regarding funding park improvements and approving Germany Road improvements with chip and seal.

Planning Staff

Planning Assistant Bloomquist shared upcoming events:

- SUP application for a sign at 148 E. Grand River Rd. Public Hearing will be held September 17th.
- October Charrette's will focus on three areas along the Grand River Corridor. Dates are October 22-30th. Details will follow.
- MAP conference is scheduled for Oct 2-4 in Kalamazoo. Great educational conference to take advantage of.

Planning Commission Chair

Chair LaMore discussed the opportunity for intern to begin preliminary planning and feasibility of a regional trail along the Grand River Corridor as part of the HUD Sustainability grant. Student's requested to write a white paper on Climate Change and what small communities can do to address this issue and the scope of activity that might fall within the purview of the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Review

Planning Commission's desire to meet with the Road Committee.

Reviewed the Goals and Objectives of the Parks and Rec Master Plan.

Reviewed the improvements proposed for the Community Park.

Master Plan- Public Hearing-Planning Assistant

Commissioner Davis will attend the Board meeting on September 10th representing the Planning Commission.

**Vice Chair Giese moved to Adjourn
Seconded by Commissioner Davis.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Wanda Bloomquist
Recording Secretary

Secretary Eidt