

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES – 7/25/2018**

CALL TO ORDER

The Williamstown Township Planning Commission convened at 7:00pm at the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer road, Williamston, MI. Chair Eidt called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

PRESENT: Chair Eidt, Commissioners Brown-Timm, Giese, Weston, Davis, and Trustee Eyster.

ABSENT: Commissioners Flore and Stanford. Quorum established.

ALSO PRESENT: Planning Consultant Mike Deem of McKenna and Jim Howard, Planning Assistant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Davis, Second by Weston to approve the minutes of May 23, 2018.

Motion approved 6 – 0.

Commissioner LaMore arrived at 7:05pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

-Solar Energy Systems Proposed Amendment Language

Motion by Giese, second by Davis to remove the item from the table and place on the agenda:

Motion approved 7 – 0.

Mike Deem reviewed the draft language and the most recent changes.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- The issue of glare in non-commercial installations
- An accessory structure on vacant land (not currently allowed)
- Not being allowed in the front yard in R-1
- Utilizing the ZBA a possibility
- Panels on the side of a building (allowed as building-mounted)
- Grammatical correction, and passive hot water systems and pools
- Bonding for removal of installations no longer utilized
- Restoration of site to original condition

- Add non-profit at #5 regarding community solar
- At 4.b.ii add “PC may allow additional height”

Due to the numerous changes it was agreed that a revised draft would come back to the PC at the September meeting.

-Review of “Sunnyside” Solar Energy Exercise

Favorable comments were made; the slide program was very good, and reality kicked in at the exercise when participants were trying to meet their established goal.

NEW BUSINESS

-Review of Uses in the I-1/Light Industrial District

Discussion involved:

- Need to review surrounding areas, both uses by right and special uses
- Quite a mix of uses in the area, with R-1 next to I-1 (Grand River area)
- Many non-conforming sites
- Establish committee to review or whole commission?

A committee was formed consisting of Eyster, LaMore, Weston and Eidt, and the first meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at 7:00pm.

PLANNING AND BOARD REPORTS

Trustee Eyster mentioned the brick work/tuck pointing planned for the cemetery; the stone work around the base of the pillars at the park pavilion; and that the Twp. Board agreed to extend the rental of the house for a year.

PC chair had no report.

Howard reported on the MTA workshop he and Supervisor Bloomquist attended, “Hot topics in P & Z” and that he scanned the handout into a file that can be enlarged and will send it to the PC members; that the Citizen Planner Program will be offered at Delhi Township in Holt starting in September; and that the Parks and Rec Plan may be coming to the PC at the September meeting.

Commissioner LaMore mentioned the upcoming MAP Annual Conference in Grand Rapids from September 20 – 22, being held in conjunction with MML.

CITIZEN COMMENT

None.

REVIEW

Chair Eidt reviewed the PC's actions:

- Made revisions to the "Proposed Solar Energy Amendment" to the Zoning Ordinance, to come back to the PC at the September meeting
- Reviewed the "Sunnyside" solar energy exercise held at the Township on June 27th
- Established a 4-member committee to review uses in the I-1/Light Industrial District with the first meeting scheduled for August 15, 2018 at 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Davis, second by LaMore to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Jim Howard

Recording Secretary

Secretary Brown-Timm