

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES – 1/23/19

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, Secretary Brown-Timm, Vice Chair Stanford, commissioners Giese, Weston, Flore, LaMore and Davis.

ABSENT: Trustee Eyster. Quorum established.

ALSO PRESENT: Planning Consultant Susan Cronander of Mckenna and Jim Howard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Davis, second by Weston to approve the minutes of November 28, 2018.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Bloomquist introduced Susan Cronander from McKenna as our new planning consultant, as Mike Deem has taken a position with another community.

PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Giese, second by Davis to amend the agenda and take P.H. #2/Jackson Metal cleaning first.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

Chair Eidt opened the public hearing for Jackson Metal Cleaning’s special use permit & site plan review.

Consultant Cronander initiated the discussion by going through her review letter for the project.

Tyler Lang from JMC also provided information to commissioners and explained the process they use. Site plan issues identified included:

- Utility easements
- Parking
- Location of wooded area
- NIESA letter
- City sewer/letter

Discussion ensued about continuing the public hearing to the next meeting to allow applicant time to revise site plan.

Chair Eidt then called for public comment, first from people in support of the project (none) and then people opposed to the project (none).

Motion by Davis, second by Weston to continue the public hearing to the March 27th meeting. Motion approved 8 – 0.

Chair Eidt then opened the second public hearing regarding a slight change in the I-1/Light Industrial District. Discussion ensued about the background for this proposed change. At the direction of the Township Board the PC established a Committee to review both the uses by right and the uses requiring a Special Use Permit in this district. After reviewing many ordinances from surrounding and similar communities, the committee recommended this one change – to move “data processing et. al.” from a special use (B.13) to a use by right under A, and add language to allow “similar, compatible uses.”

Chair Eidt then asked for public comment, first from those in favor of the change (none) and then from those opposed to the change (none).

Motion by Stanford, second by Davis to close the public hearing.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Amendment to I-1/Light Industrial District

Motion by LaMore, second by Stanford to move the “data processing and computer centers, including electronic data processing and computer equipment service establishments” from B.13 to A.10, and add “any other uses similar and compatible in nature to the uses listed above” as B.32, and renumber uses as appropriate.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

Commissioner LaMore also commended Commissioner Weston for his efforts on this issue.

- Use of auto pool cover in place of a fence

Motion by Brown-Timm, second by Davis to remove the auto pool cover issue from the table.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

Brief discussion ensued.

Motion by Weston, second by Davis to table the issue to the March 27th meeting.

Motion approved 8 - 0.

It was suggested that Consultant Cronander might look into appropriate language.

- Zoning Ordinance Amendment language for farm animals/events centers

Motion by Davis, second by Brown-Timm to remove the issue from the table.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

The Planning Commission asked Consultant Cronander to pull together some draft language.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PLANNING AND BOARD REPORTS AND REVIEW

Since Trustee Eyster was not present there was no report from the Township Board.

PC Chair Eidt welcomed Consultant Cronander to the Township. Commissioner LaMore inquired about Ms. Cronander’s background.

Howard mentioned that the Township Board is looking at a Dangerous Building Ordinance. Also, the good news is that the Short Term Rentals Bills both died in Lane Duck; the bad news is that a new bill has already been reintroduced. He also referenced the Educational Opportunities listing that was included in the packet.

CITIZEN COMMENT

None.

REVIEW

Chair Eidt reviewed the PC’s actions from the night:

- They continued the public hearing for JMC to the March meeting;
- They approved the change in the I-1/Light Industrial district;
- They tabled the auto pool cover vs. fence issue to the March meeting;
- They asked Consultant Cronander to begin drafting revised language for farm animals and events centers.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Davis, second by Brown-Timm to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

James Howard, Recording Secretary

Joscelyn Brown-Timm, Secretary