

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES – 6/24/20
(Meeting held remotely via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT: Chairman Eidt, Commissioners Flore, Weston, Davis, Giese and Tocarchick, and Trustee Eyster. Commissioner LaMore joined the meeting at 7:30pm.

ABSENT: Commissioner Stanford. Quorum established.

ALSO PRESENT: Planning Consultant Doug Plachcinski of McKenna and Jim Howard, Planning Assistant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Davis, second by Tocarchick to approve the minutes of January 22, 2020 with a correction.

Motion approved 6 – 0. (Eyster abstained: – not present)

Discussion ensued about providing Zoom meeting recordings to the public.

Supervisor Bloomquist introduced Doug Plachcinski from McKenna.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment opened at 7:08 p.m.

Commissioner Tocarchick had questions regarding the roads including roads in subdivisions; public access to and notification of the Zoom meetings; suggested providing a map that indicates where commissioners live. Further discussion about Zoom meetings.

Closed Public Comment at 7:23 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Meeting Schedule for 2020/2021*

Schedule was amended to reflect no meeting on May 27, 2020 (cancelled due to Covid 19) and to include the current meeting of June 24, 2020. It was also mentioned that the November meeting should be discussed at the July or September meeting due to the conflict with Thanksgiving.

Motion by Davis, second by Eyster to approve the meeting schedule as amended.

Motion approved 7 – 0.

- *Revisions to Bylaws*

Discussion ensued regarding adding the Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of the Agenda as Agenda items, which will cause the Bylaws to be revised to reflect the additions.

Motion by Giese, second by Eyster to amend the Bylaws to include the two items on future agendas.

Motion approved 7 – 0.

- *Establish public comment period for Rec Plan*

Discussion began about the plan. It was explained that the DNR requires a 30-day comment period for a local plan, and that the July meeting would not meet the 30 days. Since commissioners had several questions it was agreed to place the Rec Plan on the July agenda.

Motion by Weston, second by Davis to open the public comment period for the Rec Plan on June 24 and extend it to the September 23, 2020 meeting.

Motion approved 7 – 0 with one abstention (LaMore)

- *2019 – 2020 Annual Report*

It was suggested to add “none” under the topics that had no activity.

Motion by Tocarchick, second by Weston to approve the Annual Report incorporating the suggestion about “none” and forward it to the Township Board.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

- *Higher Density Committee Draft*

Brief discussion ensued.

Motion by Weston, second by Flore to move the draft to the July meeting for further discussion.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

A memo from Supervisor Bloomquist was discussed. The Board is asking the PC to look into 3 issues: should long term pop-up businesses such as food trucks, fireworks sales, flower sales be allowed? Should the noise from ATVs be regulated? Can the noise from the discharge of firearms be regulated?

Motion by Tocarchick, second by Giese to move discussion of these issues to the July Meeting.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

PLANNING AND BOARD REPORTS AND REVIEW

Township Board: Trustee Eyster deferred to Supervisor Bloomquist.

Planning Commission Chair: Chair Eidt mentioned the memo from Supervisor Bloomquist.

Planning Commissioners: Commissioner LaMore inquired about Meridian Police's response to current racial issues. Also discussion about Covid 19 issues and response.

Howard mentioned that SB 431/Sand and Gravel Mining has resurfaced with testimony taken this afternoon at the Senate Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, chaired by Tom Barrett.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Locke Township – reviewing/amending Master Plan

CITIZEN COMMENT

None

REVIEW

Chairman Eidt reviewed the PC's actions from the meeting:

- Commissioners approved the 2020-2021 meeting schedule as amended
- Bylaws were amended to include the Pledge of Allegiance and Approval of Agenda
- A public comment period for the Rec Plan was established to run to the September 23rd meeting
- The 2019 – 2020 annual report was approved with minor changes to be forwarded to the Township Board
- Commissioners moved the draft of the Higher Density Committee to the July meeting for further discussion

- Further discussion of long term pop-up businesses, noise from ATVs and firearms discharge was moved to the July meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Davis, second by Commissioner Weston to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Jim Howard, Recording Secretary

Secretary Giese