

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES – 9/23/20
(Meeting held remotely via Zoom)**

CALL TO ORDER

The Williamstown Township Planning Commission convened at 7:04pm 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 Weston, Giese, Stanford, LaMore , Tocarchick , Davis, Flore (arrived 7:09pm) and Trustee Eyster.

ABSENT: None. Quorum established.

ALSO PRESENT: Planning Consultant Chris Doozan of McKenna and Jim Howard, Planning Assistant.

Chair Eidt led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Eidt, second by Weston to approve the agenda with the change of moving up New Business/Text amendment for Williamston Inn.

Motion approved 9 – 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Stanford, second by Eyster to approve the minutes of July 22, 2020.

Motion approved 9 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Bloomquist welcomed back Chris Doozan from McKenna.

PUBLIC HEARING

- *Parks and Recreation Plan*

Chair Eidt opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public, but commissioners had comments. Questions were raised about the Public Survey of Residents listed in the Action Plan, why non-motorized trails through the Township weren't listed in the Action Plan, what exactly the Blueways Trail was. Brief discussion ensued.

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

Motion approved 9 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Proposed Text Amendment in B-2: Williamston Inn/Krauss - Adult Foster Care*

The Krausses explained their proposed addition on the north side of the motel to accommodate adult foster care for 1 – 6 adults. There was much discussion regarding the proposed use versus the zoning, with Chris Doozan to review.

Motion by Davis, second by Eyster to schedule a public hearing for the November 16 meeting.

After clarification, motion carried 9 – 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Parks and Rec Plan: resolution*

Discussion ensued.

Motion by Weston, second by Tocarchick to approve the amended resolution for the Rec Plan with the following additional Whereas (#9):

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has identified the following additional revisions to the Plan:

- 1. The Blueways trail must be identified and explained;**
- 2. The Action Plan to be revised to address and emphasize all types of non-motorized trails;**
- 3. The Action Plan to be revised to update the reference to an opinion survey, to indicate that the Township will seek public input;**
- 4. The Action Plan to be updated to indicate in a separate column the status of projects.**

Motion approved 9 – 0.

- *Draft from Higher Density Committee/Cluster Zoning Amendment from Chris Doozan*

Discussion ensued concerning whether duplexes would be allowed to maximize open space, having an age limit, that this type of development would let people get away from yard work, and size of the units. Carl McIntosh discussed his proposed development. It was mentioned that it shouldn't tie the hands of developers and the need to be flexible. Chris Doozan then went over his review of the proposed ordinance and his concerns. Mobility issues with an aging population navigating two stories was mentioned.

It was agreed to move the issue to the November meeting with Chris D. doing revisions.

- *Pop Up Businesses /Noise*

Discussion began about such businesses, with agreement to go ahead with the draft letter to area restaurants. Suggestion from Chris D. to add who to respond to, and by what date.

Regarding the noise issue, it was suggested that the Meridian Township Police could do a study. There was agreement to move the issue to the November meeting.

- *Event Barns*

Much discussion ensued about the number of events to allow per week, and the number per day, as well as the conflict with residential use and the limited season involved. Suggestions were made that the on-site residential dwelling needs to be owner-occupied, using the lot line for separation, teardown to be completed by 1100pm and authorizing the use for one year, with renewal required. Question was raised about why 40 acres.

It was further suggested to place the item on the November agenda.

PLANNING AND BOARD REPORTS AND REVIEW

Trustee Eyster reported that the absentee ballot count will be moved to the branch school, and mentioned the lack of poll workers.

Chair Eidt mentioned the slate of candidates, and Commissioner Giese volunteered to be the committee. Also, the three commissioners whose terms are expiring all expressed interest in continuing to serve on the PC. Chair Eidt welcomed back Chris Doozan.

Howard had no comment.

CORRESPONDENCE

Neil Sheridan's article from the MTA Focus was mentioned.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Commissioner Stanford mentioned the Intent of the B-2 District as it relates to the requested text amendment for Adult Foster Care.

REVIEW

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

- Scheduled a public hearing on the Adult Foster Care in B-2/Text Amendment for the November 16 meeting;
- Approved a revised resolution for the Parks and Rec Plan;

- Agreed to move the higher density/cluster zoning issue to the November 16 meeting with a revised draft ordinance amendment;
- Agreed to move the Noise issue to the November meeting;
- Agreed to continue the events barns issue to the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Jim Howard, Recording Secretary

Secretary Giese