

FEBRUARY 1, 2023
Huron County Planning Commission Minutes

A meeting of the Huron County Planning Commission was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, in the Huron County Building, 250 E Huron Ave, Rm 305, Bad Axe, MI 48413.

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Renn at 7:01 p.m. with the Pledge to the United States of America. Secretary Julie Epperson, called the roll of members: Roll call - Members present: Bernie Creguer, Julie Epperson, George Lauinger, Jeremy Polega, Bill Renn, Todd Talaski, J. Dean Smith, and Kim Rosenthal. Absent: Richard Swartzendruber. Approximately 7 guests were in attendance.

Member Talaski made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by member Smith. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Minutes

Member Talaski made a motion, seconded by Member Polega to approve the January 4, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment (Open Meeting Act.): None.

4. Public Hearing (Open Meeting Act – 3 minutes per speaker): None.

5. Communications:

- A. Sherman Township Planning Commission notice of public hearing scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2023 to receive comments on adopting the zoning ordinance drafted for Sherman Township.
- B. E-mail from Kathi Jahn, Sherman Township Clerk, including Notice of Ordinance Adoption: An ordinance to impose a moratorium on the issuance of permits, licenses, or approvals for, or for any construction of wind or solar energy systems, dated January 12, 2023.
- C. Michigan Association of Planning notice of upcoming Planning & Zoning Training Workshops for elected and appointed officials. If interested, please contact Jeff Smith.
- D. Township Focus, official publication of the Michigan Townships Association, dated January 2023, articles contained in the "hello, MTA...?" section, pages 12 and 13. Members discussed battery storage and fire concerns. Member Lauinger will do more research on the subject.
- E. Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) document titled "Obtaining a Construction Permit for a Campground."
- F. Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) legislation governing Campgrounds. Jeff Smith will need to do more research on campgrounds and zoning as EGLE will look for a zoning approval.

6. Report of Committees: None.

7. Unfinished business:

- A. Commercial Solar Energy Facilities Ordinance. Continue review of draft copy dated 01-08-23.

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The changes that were approved at the January 4, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Sections G and X will be reviewed by Jeff Smith to suggest wording for consistency with the general ordinance. Members discussed drainage tile. Member Lauinger will research drainage alternatives, battery storage, and standard language suggestions for next month.

8. New Business:

A. PA 116 Enrollment Applications:

1. Maurer, Richard L Trust, Sec 34 Bloomfield Twp., 34 acres (34 cultivated) 0 bldgs., 10 yrs.
2. Roggenbuck, Nicolas & Rachel, Sec 7 Rubicon Twp., 34.76 acres (30 cultivated) 0 bldgs., 90 yrs.
3. Maurer, Richard L Trust, Sec 29 Sigel Twp., 40 acres (38 cultivated) 2 bldgs., 10 yrs.
4. Maurer, Richard L Trust, Sec 29 Sigel Twp., 39 acres (39 cultivated) 0 bldgs., 10 yrs.

A motion was made by Member Polega and seconded by Member Smith to approve all four of the PA 116 enrollment applications. Motion carried.

9. Final Public Comment:

Jack Kriete – Battery facility needs to be added into the solar ordinance. To put out a fire would take massive amounts of water and the possibility of heavy metals getting into the water supply. It would be an environmental disaster. Be proactive now. The ordinance can still be changed.

Commissioner Steve Vaughan – Energy storage and energy production should be separated in the ordinance. Take a look at the campground in Grant Township. The integrity of tile drainage systems on land utilized for solar and/or battery energy systems will need to be maintained.

10. Final Planning Commission Comment:

Member Creguer wondered about the placement of the large battery energy storage system in relation to natural creeks/drains?

Jeff Smith said there should be an environmental assessment completed by EGLE and/or an environmental consultant for placement of solar and/or large battery storage energy facilities when located near natural creeks/drains or bodies of water.

11. Adjournment

Being there was no further business to come before the Planning Commission, it was moved on a motion by Member Creguer, to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Member Smith. Motion carried. Adjournment was at 8:25 p.m.

Next **Regular PC Meeting** scheduled on **Wednesday, March 1, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m., Room 305.**

Bill Renn, Chairman

Julie Epperson, Secretary

Date: _____

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