

**JUNE 5, 2024**  
**Huron County Planning Commission Minutes**

A meeting of the Huron County Planning Commission was held on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 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 Richard Swartzendruber called the roll of members: Roll call – Members present: Bernie Creguer, Deborah Knarian, George Lauinger, Richard Swartzendruber, Jeremy Polega, Bill Renn, Todd Talaski, J. Dean Smith, and James Leonard. Approximately eight guests were in attendance.

Member Talaski made a motion and seconded by Member Polega to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Member Smith made a motion, seconded by Member Creguer, to approve the May 1, 2024, regular meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**3. Public Comment (Open Meeting Act.):**

Paul Funk, DTE, thanked the Planning Commission for their hard work on the solar & battery energy storage ordinances. They are excited to see the ordinances go to a public hearing. He offered to provide input to the commissioners, if requested.

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

**5. Communications:**

- A. University of Michigan article dated January 12, 2024, titled "What Local Governments Should know about Michigan's New Renewable Energy Siting Polices submitted by member Knarian.
- B. Email from Thomas Marquard dated April 30, 2024, regarding Citizens for Legal Choice PA 233.
- C. Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development letter dated April 30, 2024, regarding Thomas Plotzke PA 116 rejection letter.
- D. Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development letter dated April 30, 2024, regarding Lorraine Metzger PA 116 rejection letter.
- E. Email from Ryan Osantoski dated May 21, 2024, regarding May 1<sup>st</sup> public comment.
- F. Citizens for Local Choice campaign update submitted by member Renn.

**6. Reports of Committees: Campground, Mobile Home, and RV Park committee**

Jeff Smith shared pictures of structures being built and attached to RVs at Duggan's Campground. According to EGLE - State of Michigan, these structures may be in violation because they are attached to the RV. Even with a structure that is approved (porch, deck, or 3-season sunroom), there is supposed to be a minimum 4-foot buffer around each RV. The accessory structure is supposed to be free-standing. He is waiting for additional feedback/guidance from EGLE. Members discussed the difference between RV's and Mobile Homes in existing campgrounds and mobile home parks.

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**7. Unfinished Business:**

A. Commercial Solar Energy Facilities Ordinance & Battery Energy System ordinances. Review updated versions dated 6-3-2024.

Member Lauinger took the draft copy with Corporation Counsel's annotations and cleaned up the format and index/numbering on the solar ordinance and battery ordinance. Member Knarian had sent Member Lauinger a list of four items that were included in the solar ordinance but were not in the battery ordinance.

- Lot coverage (15%) exemption – The other provisions contained within 15.02.9.5 would still apply. On the Battery ordinance, page 4 #6 will address the lot coverage and the current #6 will become #7.
- Decommissioning needs to be addressed in the battery ordinance. Members discussed bonding, vegetation buffers, hazardous material disposal, soil testing, setbacks, requiring KMZ files, consultant fees, and false complaints.

**8. New Business:**

A. PA 116 Enrollment Applications: None

**9. Final Public Comment:** Public input protocol (3 minutes per speaker):

Keith Iseler, Huron Township, stated he is not a fan of the state of Michigan taking over renewable energy zoning. We have heard from the State that each municipality is entitled to create their own zoning, however it shall not be too restrictive or prohibitive.

Paul Funk, DTE, stated he will return next month and thanked the Commission for their questions.

**10. Final Planning Commission Comment:**

Member Knarian would like to discuss bonds and/or financial assurances for renewable energy projects along with decommissioning.

**11. Adjournment**

Being there was no further business to come before the Planning Commission, Member Swartzendruber made a motion, seconded by Member Creguer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Adjournment was at 8:59 p.m.

**Notice of Upcoming Meetings:**

- Next **Regular PC Meeting** scheduled for **Wednesday, July 3, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m., Room 305.**

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Bill Renn, Chairman

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Rich Swartzendruber, Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
L:\FLOOR1\BLDZONE\DOCUMENTS\2024\PC Minutes 6-5-2024 unapproved.