



Rough Draft

Minutes

THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

January 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Diane LaMountain called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present in addition to Mrs. LaMountain were: Rod Iamurri, Chris Thompson, Ruth McDonald and Rick Lorentzen. Also present were Dan Sika, Director of Community Development and Susan Coggin, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer.

Members Absent: John Bintz and Dale Halm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda:

It was moved by Mrs. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Thompson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Iamurri to approve the minutes of December 21, 2011 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Hearings – None.

6. Presentations – None.

7. Sign Board of Appeals – None.

8. Old Business

A. Update – 2012 Sidewalk Project – Kennely Road from Swanhaven Manor north to Northfield Drive.

Mr. Sika stated that as discussed at the December, 2011 Planning Commission meeting, Thomas Township is proposing to install a new section of sidewalk along Kennely Road from Swanhaven Manor north to Northfield Drive. By installing these new sections of sidewalk which would connect to the existing sidewalks at Brookfield Drive and Swanhaven Manor, it will complete a large section of sidewalk shown on the Sidewalk Master Plan. Every other year the Township installs a section of

sidewalk connecting residential areas to each other. In this case a high density of residential parcels will be connected to the Gratiot Road (M-46) corridor. Mr. Sika further stated that some Planning Commission members asked about the location, north vs. south side of Kennely Road. For safety reasons, all crossings will need to be located at intersections.

B. Update – Great Lakes Solar Technology Park.

Mr. Sika stated that on November 21, 2011, Saginaw Future, the Great Lakes Bay Region and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation celebrated the groundbreaking of the Great Lakes Solar Technology Park on North Graham Road. The property consists of 231 acres and will be developed into six shovel ready lots. Construction of the sanitary sewer and new lift station has begun.

C. Update – Hemlock Semiconductor Expansion, 12334 Geddes Road, Hemlock, MI 48626

Mr. Sika stated that at the November 16, 2011 Planning Commission meeting, a site plan was approved for various new buildings and expansion of the existing facility located at 12334 Geddes Road. The Planning Commission members were presented with a copy of a letter from the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality denying Hemlock Semiconductor's application. Discussion regarding project alternatives and modifications may continue and Hemlock Semiconductor has sixty days to request a hearing; however, Mr. Sika stated that he had received an email since the Planning Commission packet was delivered from Hemlock Semiconductor that they have worked out an alternative and should receive approval in the near future.

9. New Business

A. Discussion Only – Site Plan Review amendment – Outdoor Trash Receptacle Requirement for All Drive-Thru Developments.

Mr. Sika stated that our office has observed that there seems to be trash blowing on the property from customers not disposing of trash properly. One deficiency observed is the lack of trash receptacles located on the outside of the building. We would like to add a requirement for site plan approval for any drive-thru business that a trash receptacle be placed on the outside of the building located near the drive-thru where customers may pull up to the trash receptacle without getting out of their vehicle. This simple requirement should cut down on the amount of trash on the property.

10. Receive and File All Correspondence.

A. December, 2011 Edition of the Planning and Zoning News.

11. Adjournment.

Motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. McDonald to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next meeting date is Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Coggin, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer