

**Minutes**

**THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**

Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609  
July 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

John Bintz called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present in addition to Mr. Bintz were: Rod Iamurri, Dale Halm, Ruth McDonald, Chris Thompson, Diane LaMountain and Rick Lorentzen. Also present were Dan Sika, Director of Community Development, Susan Coggin, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer and Cindy Winland, Crescent Consulting.

Members Absent: None.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. Approval of Agenda:**

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

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. LaMountain to approve the minutes of June 20, 2012 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Hearings**

- A. Zoning Ordinance – Ordinance No. 12-Z-02 – Proposed Review and Update of the Thomas Township Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. Bintz opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Sika presented the Planning Commission members with two updates/clarifications to the zoning ordinance regarding private roads and the stone pillar/fence requirements along Gratiot Road. Mr. Sika further stated that over time state law changes and township zoning ordinance amendments are made. In November, 2011, Crescent Consulting was awarded the bid to review the zoning ordinance for conflicts that may have been created over the years. In addition, unnecessary language was reviewed and eliminated from the zoning ordinance that may be confusing or redundant.

Ms. Cindy Winland of Crescent Consulting presented the Planning Commission members with an overview of the proposed updates/clarifications to the Zoning Ordinance. The following chapters were discussed:

Chapter 1 – Definitions  
Chapter 2 – General Requirements  
Chapter 3 – Landscaping  
Chapter 4 – General Off Street Parking and Loading  
Chapter 5 – Flood Hazard Areas  
Chapter 6 – Noxious Weeds and Uncontrolled Plant Growth  
Chapters 15 - 20 – Zoning Districts (Environmental Resource District, Agricultural District, Residential Districts, Business Districts and Manufacturing District.)  
Chapter 21 – M-46 Corridor Overlay Zone  
Chapter 25 – Special Land Use Permits  
Chapter 30 – Administration

Mr. Bintz then asked for public comments in favor or in opposition to the proposed updates. There being no public comments, Mr. Bintz closed the public hearing portion of this hearing at 8:32 p.m.

Due to continuing work being completed on the Zoning Ordinance, the Planning Commission tabled this item until a final copy could be presented at a future Planning Commission meeting.

- 6. Presentations** – None.
- 7. Sign Board of Appeals** – None.
- 8. Old Business** – None.
- 9. New Business**
- 10. Receive and File All Correspondence** – None.
- 11. Adjournment.**

Motion by Mr. Halm, seconded by Mr. Iamurri to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.  
Motion carried unanimously. The next meeting date is Wednesday, August 15, 2012.

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