

MINUTES

DRAFT

**THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE
THOMAS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
8215 SHIELDS DRIVE, SAGINAW, MICHIGAN
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021, 7 O’CLOCK P.M.**

Electronic remote access, in accordance with Michigan law, implemented in response to COVID-19 social distancing requirements and restrictions to hold meetings virtually.

- Members present via “Zoom”: R. Iamurri (remotely from Saginaw, MI,) P. Lynch (remotely from Saginaw, MI), D. Sommers (remotely from Saginaw, MI), D. Bird (remotely from Saginaw, MI), K. Beam (remotely from Saginaw, MI) S. Yockey (remotely from Costa Rica)
- Members Absent: J. Curry
- Present via “Zoom”: J. Corriveau, Parks Director (remotely from Saginaw, MI)
- Physically Present: D. Sika, Community Development Director
C. Watt, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer

Mr. Iamurri called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Sommers, supported by Mr. Bird, to approve the minutes of January 20, 2021 as presented.

VOTE	5 YEAS	0 NAYS	2 ABSENT	MOTION CARRIED
	YEAS: Sommers, Bird, Iamurri, Lynch, Beam			
	NAYS: None			
	ABSENT: Curry, Yockey			

Old Business:

A. Update on Nature Center Progress by John Corriveau

John Corriveau, Parks Director updated the Planning Commission concerning the progress of the new Nature Center. Discussion included the expected floor plan, a 5,000 square foot blank canvas at this time. native animal displays, a walkway over the river, open space with room for 150-200 people for special events and potentially renting the space out in the future. Mr. Corriveau explained that grants are being applied for in order to complete walk ways. This will cover about a ½ mile of walkways currently with observation decks. There is even the potential to continue to Thomas Township Trail across N. Miller along the Consumers easement to reach N. River and the property the Township purchased from Holy Cross which ties in with the Nature Center. This would create a means for people to travel along the Trail and end up within the preserve. If all goes as planned, construction should begin on the project in June.

B. Future Land Use Map Updates.

A copy of the recent updates made to the Future Land Use map as a result of Master Plan update comments received was presented to the Planning Commission for their review. This concerned parcels along Dice Rd. and N. Thomas Rd. that had potential for new development. Mr. Sika reminded the Planning Commission that at the March 17, 2021 meeting, a public hearing is to be held regarding the Master Plan update they have been working on.

C. Temporary Sign Fee Waiver

Mr. Sika explained to the Planning Commission that as per their discussion and request, the matter of waiving fees for the use of temporary signs as well as using unlimited time to display them, is being brought before the Thomas Township Board of Trustees for approval at the March 1, 2021 meeting. This is being done again this year to offer relief to small businesses after all of the effects of Covid-19. Mr. Sika stated that the Township had received good comments for doing this in 2020 and does not feel it will be denied for 2021.

At this time Mr. Yockey joined the meeting (7:45 p.m.)

New Business:

A. Madeline Street Sidewalk Project.

As Mr. Sika explained, the sidewalk project budgeted for 2021/2022 is along Madeline Street from North Miller Rd. to Laurie Lane East. Request for Proposals have been sent out and are due back in the morning to begin the process of Board approval to begin the installation. Discussion took place concerning how these projects are determined and how this project will fit into the future plan for sidewalks and trails in the Township. It was noted that this project is much needed due to the number of residents that walk in this area right now using the streets. This will create a safe walkway for them.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Yockey, supported by Mr. Bird, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m..

VOTE 6 YEAS 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT MOTION CARRIED

YEAS: Lynch, Beam, Bird, lamurri, Sommers, Yockey

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Curry