



Minutes

THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609
May 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Rod Iamurri called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present in addition to Mr. Iamurri were: Dave Sommers, Pat Lynch, Doug Bird, Ruth McDonald and Steve Yockey. Also present was Dan Sika, Director of Community Development, Connie Watt, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer and Josh Haley, Township View.

Absent: Jennifer Curry

1. *Call to Order and Roll Call*

2. *Pledge of Allegiance.*

3. *Approval of Agenda:*

It was moved by McDonald, seconded by Sommers to approve the Agenda for the May 17, 2017 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

4. *Approval of Minutes:*

It was moved by Sommers, seconded by McDonald to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2017 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. *Communications – Petitions – Citizens Comments – None.*

6. *Presentations-None*

7. *Hearings-None*

8. *Sign Board of Appeals-None*

9. New Business

A. Planning Commission Education

A handout from the “Michigan Planner” was given to the Planning Commission members for them to review. The handout addressed various aspects and duties of the Planning Commission at their monthly meetings.

B. Review of Ordinance Section 3.14 Regarding Mini Storage Facilities.

A discussion as recommended by the Thomas Township Zoning Board of Appeals took place regarding Section 3.14 of the Thomas Township Zoning Ordinance, specifically subsection (c) relating to the requirement of a six foot (6') high screening fence around the perimeter of new mini storage facilities. A text amendment to this section will be presented at the June 21, 2017 meeting for discussion and review by the Planning Commission.

10. Old Business

A. Medical Marijuana Articles

The Planning Commission was presented with three new articles and a packet of educational material relating to Medical Marijuana. The members would like to see this continued each month as they educate themselves concerning Medical Marijuana.

B. Accessory Structure Height Proposed Text Amendment

The Planning Commission reviewed a proposed text amendment to Section 3.5-Accessory Buildings of the Thomas Township Zoning Ordinance. This section has previously been discussed at previous meetings. It was agreed that this text amendment was needed to the Ordinance. A motion was made by Yockey, seconded by McDonald to accept the proposed text amendment to this section to be brought before the Planning Commission in June for a public hearing. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Final Drafts of Windmills & Wind Powered Electricity Generating Devices and Small Wind Ordinances.

A final draft of Section 18.33 and new section 3.18 of the Thomas Township Zoning Ordinance relating to Wind Energy was presented to the Planning Commission. The changes in previous drafts have not been incorporated and changes suggested by Rob Eggers, of Spicer, included in these final drafts. Sika did note that he had a couple of additional changes he wanted to discuss with Eggers and once those changes are incorporated the Planning Commission will be presented with the finished product to discuss and review. If the proposed changes are agreed upon by the Planning Commission, the text amendment will then be set up for a public hearing. Most likely in July.

11. Receive and File All Correspondence

A.-Planning & Zoning News-March & April 2017

12. Adjournment

Motion by Sommers seconded by Bird to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. ***The next regular meeting date is June 21, 2017.***

Respectfully submitted by Connie Watt, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer