

Schoolcraft Township Planning Commission

Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, January 8, 2018

A meeting of the Schoolcraft Township Planning Commission was held on Monday, January 8, 2018 at the Schoolcraft Township Hall commencing at 6:00 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Aubry
Charles Bibart
Greg Feldmeier
Eric Jasiak
Len Jaworski
Dave Reno
Barry Visel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Zoning Administrator Hamilton
Residents Steve Holman and Terry DeHart

Chairman Visel opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Dave Aubry with support from Greg Feldmeier to approve the agenda as issued.

Motion carried 7-0

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:

A motion was made by Len Jaworski and supported by Dave Aubry to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2017 meeting, without correction.

Motion carried 7-0

CITIZEN TIME ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

No items were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Site Plan Review and Special Use Public Hearing – Indiana Michigan Power Substation

No representatives were present to discuss the submitted site plan. Chairman Visel opened the Public Hearing at 6:03 pm.

Resident Steve Holman informed the Commission about the noise and vibrations from the construction activity. He questioned the future placement of the power lines along W avenue and any steps AEP was taking to help buffer the adjacent neighbors from the substation. Chairman Visel noted that the placement of towers was not under control of the Commission.

Resident Terry De Hart voiced concerns about the visual impact of the substation and power lines on the property value of his historic home. He expressed his desire that the power company was taking steps to be a good neighbor mindful of property values.

Discussion of the application then centered around the height of any structures on the site noting that the ordinance limits the height of any structures to 35 ft. within the site.

As no representatives were present to address the resident's concerns and the ordinance requirements and the plan as submitted did not address structural heights, the public hearing was suspended until the power company can provided additional information, hopefully for our February meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Chickens Update

No new information on this potential ordinance change was available.

b. Dock Update

The Commission reviewed the ordinances and practices of surrounding townships in the county concerning the length and placement of docks on local lakes including: West, Austin, Gourdneck, Sugarloaf, Eagle, Crooked, Pretty, Barton, Howard, Sunset, and Indian Lakes. In all cases, practices and ordinances of our surrounding townships recognized the need to provide dock owners some flexibility to achieve a navigable water depth in the length and placement of their docks. Commissioners generally supported increasing the flexibility our ordinance section 5.6. Secretary Bibart will draft some preliminary ordinance language for consideration at our next meeting.

REPORT FROM THE TOWNSHIP BOARD

Greg Feldmeier updated the Commission on Township Board activities including support for renewing the invasive species control initiatives on Barton Lake.

REPORT FROM THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

No report was received.

MEMBER'S TIME AND TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY TIME

No issues were discussed.

With no further business, Chairman Visel adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Charles Bibart
DV1.8.18