

**Schoolcraft Township Planning Commission**  
Proposed Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, June 1, 2015.

A meeting of the Schoolcraft Township Planning Commission was held on Monday, June 1, 2015 at the Schoolcraft Township Hall commencing at 6:00 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Aubry  
Ron Avis  
Charles Bibart  
Len Jaworski  
Ken Hovenkamp  
Dave Reno

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barry Visel

OTHER ATTENDEES: Attorney Rolfe  
Supervisor Ulsh  
Clerk Mongreig  
Zoning Admin. Hamilton  
Bill Evenboer  
Four township residents

Vice Chairman Aubry opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Len Jaworski with support from Ron Avis to approve the agenda as issued, noting that Public Hearing would begin at 7:00pm preceded by all other agenda items. **Motion carried 6-0**

**MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:**

A motion was made by ken Hovenkamp and supported by Dave Reno to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2015 meeting, without correction. **Motion carried 6-0**

**CITIZEN TIME ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** No items were discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Public Hearing (7:00-7:23 pm, see below)
- b. Prairie Edge Estates Letter

The Commission received and reviewed comments and a letter from Bill Evenboer of prairie Edge Estates LLC requesting approval to initiate building on lots 86 and 89 in Phase 3 of Prairie Edge Estates. As Phase 3 is still in the approval process, Attorney Rolfe advised Mr. Evenboer and the Commission that building permits cannot be issued

prior to plan approval. Further, the Commission does not have authority to grant such requests.

A motion to take no action was made by Len Jaworski with support from Ron Avis.

**Motion carried 6-0**

**OLD BUSINESS** No items were discussed.

### **REPORT FROM THE TOWNSHIP BOARD**

Ken Hovenkamp updated the Commission on Board activities including discussions on the future of our park improvements.

**REPORT FROM THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS** No reports were received.

### **MEMBER'S TIME AND TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY TIME**

As the Public Hearing was to start at 7:00 pm and all other agenda items were completed by 6:25 pm, a motion to recess until 7:00 pm was made by Ken Hovenkamp with support from Dave Reno. **Motion carried 6-0**

### **NEW BUSINESS** (continued)

- a. Public Hearing (7:00-7:23)

Vice Chairman Aubry opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm to address:

1. Greenstone Farm Credit (application to amend the Future Land Use Map and Zoning Map)

Commission members received and reviewed written correspondence from five interested persons: Martha Moore, Beth Aitken (volunteer for Michigan DNR), Penny Brisco (Audubon Society of Kalamazoo), Mike Hardy, and Rachelle Roake (Michigan Audubon Society). In summary, all written correspondence advised and requested the Commission not to move forward with the proposed amendment thereby retaining the current planning designation as Rural Preservation and Rural Residential Zoning, on the subject parcels. Concerns generally centered on potential harm to wildlife habitats, wetland disruption, and loss of rural character.

In addition Commission members heard comments from the following attendees: Mike Hardy, Beth Aitken, Gin Mongreig, and Tim Moore. Again all persons requested the Commission not to move forward with the proposed amendment thereby retaining the current planning designation as Rural Preservation and Rural Residential Zoning, on the subject parcels for the reasons noted above. It was also noted that the requested change to Industrial and Local Industrial District designations would be contrary to the intent and direction of the Township Master Plan.

Commission discussion centered on the Rural Preservation and Rural Residential District designation for the subject parcels with general agreement that these current designations were still appropriate and consistent with the intent of the Township Master Plan.

A motion was made by Dave Reno, with support from Len Jaworski, to recommend that the Township Board not amend the Future Land Use Map as proposed in the Greenstone Farm Credit application, thereby retaining the current Rural Preservation designation for the subject parcels. **Motion carried 6-0**

A motion was made by Dave Reno, with support from Len Jaworski, to recommend that the Township Board not amend the Zoning Map as proposed in the Greenstone Farm Credit application, thereby retaining the current Rural Residential District zoning for the subject parcels. **Motion carried 6-0**

## 2. Solar Energy Systems

Regarding the Tentative Text of Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments Pertaining to Solar Energy Generating Facilities and Accessory Solar Energy Systems, no public comments or correspondence were received.

As the Planning Commission previously reviewed the text, a motion to recommend Township Board approval of the text as written, was made by Charles Bibart with support from Ken Hovenkamp. **Motion carried 6-0**

## 3. Roadside Stands and Farm Markets

Regarding the Tentative Text of Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments Pertaining to Roadside Stands and Farm Markets, no public comments or correspondence were received.

As the Planning Commission previously reviewed the text, a motion to recommend Township Board approval of the text as written, was made by Charles Bibart with support from Ron Avis. **Motion carried 6-0**

With no further business, Vice Chairman Aubry adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Charles Bibart  
PV6.1.15