

Schoolcraft Township Planning Commission

Minutes for: Monday, October 3, 2022 at 6:00pm

Commissioners:

Name	Present	Absent
Barry Visel (Chairman)	x	
David Aubry (Vice Chairman)	x	
Rich Bailey		x
Eric Jasiak		x
Tamra Stafford	x	
Jim Jastifer		x
Nathan Miersma	x	

Also present:

Name	Description
Don Ulsh	Township Supervisor
Chris Hamilton	SMCCI

Call to order

Commissioner Visel opened the meeting at 6:13 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of agenda

Commissioner Aubry motioned to approve the agenda, supported by Commissioner Stafford to approve the agenda. The motion carried 4-0.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Commissioner Aubry motioned that the meeting minutes from September 12 be tabled until an updated copy was submitted for review and approval. The motion was supported by Commissioner Stafford. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Public comments / citizen time:

No items were discussed

New business

1. Site plan review (McEnroe Farms)

Commissioner Aubry motioned to approve the site plan as submitted, subject to compliance with all township ordinances (including those discussed related to lighting, parking and driveway surfaces). The motion was supported by Commissioner Stafford, and passed 4-0.

2. Short term rentals discussion

The planning commission members reviewed and discussed short-term rental zoning and ordinances from other Michigan municipalities, including new developments in short-term rentals such as "hipcamps."

Currently, Schoolcraft Township zoning and general ordinances are silent on short-term rentals. However, similar to most other municipalities reviewed, the township's general ordinances apply to any properties being used as short-term rentals, including but not limited to noise ordinance, wake ordinances on applicable lakes, traffic ordinances, etc.

The planning commission members agreed that there is a general preference not to create a new application, review, licensing and renewal, and inspection process which would require additional township resources.

Commissioner Miersma motioned to defer the question of if and/or how to regulate short term rentals to the township board for further consideration, since much of the governance would fall under general ordinances. The motion was supported by Commissioner Aubry, and passed unanimously.

Old business

No items were discussed

Report from the Township Board

Commissioner Stafford provided a summary report of township board activities:

- A special township meeting is planned for 10/4/22 regarding asphalt sealing and fencing bids that are time-sensitive due to seasonal time constraints
- A public hearing on the Barton Lake special assessment was conducted
- The board approved the South County Fire Authority draft audit
- The township board received one bid for paving, and tabled review until more bids were received

- Non-conforming lots were discussed
- A zoning change in Section 9 was discussed
- The township needs a bathroom remodel and is having difficulty identifying available contractors

Report from the Zoning Board of Appeals

- A variance was approved for Reggia Auto Group regarding extension of one of their buildings

A **motion to adjourn** was raised at 7:22 by Commissioner Visel and seconded by Commissioner Aubry. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Miersma