

# Schoolcraft Township Planning Commission

**Minutes for:** Monday, December 4, 2023

## 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
Brandon Bordner	TM Asphalt Representative
Brian Pittelko	W.E. Upjohn Institute Representative
Christine Hamilton	Zoning Administrator

## Call to Order

Chair Visel opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

## Roll Call

## Pledge of Allegiance

## Approval of Agenda

Chair Visel moved to approve the agenda with a change in the order of hearing new business, supported by Commissioner Stafford. Motion carried 5-0.

## Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Visel moved to approve the minutes of November 6, 2023 with one change, the insertion of "Schoolcraft" before "historical society" on page 3. Motion carried 5-0.

## Public Comment

A citizen requested to address the Commission when the Commission reviews the report from the Zoning Board of Appeals at the end of this meeting.

## **New Business**

### **1. Site Plan Review – TM Asphalt**

Commissioner Jastifer motioned to approve the site plan as presented, subject to conditions to be set by the Township Zoning Administrator for parking, landscaping, lighting, and signage. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jasiak. Motion passed 5-0.

### **2. Master Plan Update**

W.E. Upjohn Institute representative Brian Pittelko and the Commissioners discussed the existing land use map and the future land use map that is being drafted. Mr. Pittelko stated that the maps today had not been changed since the last meeting.

Commissioner Jastifer asked what the goal of the conversation is. Mr. Pittelko stated that his goal is to think about how and where growth of the Township should occur.

Commissioner Jastifer asked if the Commissioners should pause this conversation until they have up to date maps. The other Commissioners said no.

Chair Visel stated he is happy with the future land use plan they currently have. He stated that the Zoning Ordinance might need to be amended to accommodate different types of development.

The Commissioners and Mr. Pittelko discussed specific areas on the land use map.

The Commissioners went through each page of the draft master plan.

Mr. Pittelko brought up the recent legislature on solar and wind energy. Chair Visel clarified that the new laws apply to large-scale solar and wind energy.

The Commissioners and Mr. Pittelko discussed the timeline for finalizing the master plan update.

## **Old Business**

None.

## **Report from Township Board**

Commissioner Stafford provide a summary of the November 14, 2023 Township Board Meeting. The Township Board discussed:

- A round-about in the Township.
- Renderings of a new digital sign that the Township is looking at installing.
- The TextMyGov program to provide various information.
- The Township's grass mowing contract and bidding for separate mowing and lawn care contracts.

Commissioner Jasiak asked if there is anything special that must be done to install the digital sign. Commissioner Stafford said the Township Board talked about where it would go and how it will look. Commissioner Jasiak thinks it will be distracting to drivers.

### **Report from Zoning Board of Appeals**

Zoning Administrator Christine Hamilton reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals did not make a decision on the application of Geoffrey Clap for a variance from setbacks and side property line. Ms. Hamilton reported that there is a disagreement over the interpretation of the Zoning Ordinance.

A member of the public commented that he believes the Zoning Board of Appeals made the appropriate decision.

Chair Visel stated that the Commissioners will address the issue if and when it is presented to them.

The Commissioners received a suggested amendment to the Zoning Ordinance on fences. Chair Visel stated it will be on a future agenda.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Visel adjourned the Planning Commission meet at 7:44 pm.