

Michigamme Township

Planning Commission

Minutes of April 15, 2021

Present: Ruth Starr, Janice Anderson, Emma Murphy, Joel Johnson (via Zoom), Julia Leake, Jason McCarthy (Zoning Administrator)

Absent: None

I. Opening

A. Call to Order: 6:33 pm

B. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve: Julia Leake, Second: Joel Johnson, Motion passes.

C. Approval of Minutes of 2/18/21: Motion to Approve: Ruth Starr, Second: Joel Johnson, Motion passes.

II. Old Business

A. Changes to Zoning Regarding Small Animals

1. General consensus: No Ordinance needed unless a problem exists.
2. Jason McCarthy will bring document with better terminology to the next meeting.
3. No action. Tabled until next meeting.

B. Action on Sign Ordinance: None

C. Acceptance of Minutes of CIP Scoring Meeting

1. Motion to Approve: Jan Anderson, Second: Joel Johnson, Motion passes.

D. Follow-up re: Letter to McBroom/Cambensy

1. In the letter Michigamme Township Planning Commission stated their opposition to:
 - a. Further taxation of VHRs in order to fund convention centers or tourism
 - b. The establishment of a VHR database and bureaucracy to serve it.
 - c. The removal of VHRs from local zoning ordinances

E. Update on Submission of Grant to Resurface Tennis and Basketball Courts

1. Grants have been submitted for a Passport Grant and a Legacy Grant

2. Contact person at State of Michigan identified areas where more information is needed. Areas revised and Passport Grant resubmitted.
3. Final submission with corrections May 15, 2021

III. New Business

A. Role of Zoning Administrator vs Planning Commission

1. If application is compliant, Zoning Administrator can approve it without Zoning Commission. A copy of each approved zoning application should be brought to next Zoning Commission meeting.
2. Conditional Uses must be approved by the Zoning Commission.

B. Blight Tour

1. Blight Tour will be on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 9:00 am with William Seppanen, Janice Anderson, and Jason McCarthy attending.
2. Future Blight Tours will not require all members of the Zoning Commission to be present. Rather, only one of us needed, and we will take turns to accompany William Seppanen and Jason McCarthy.

C. Revision of Zoning Ordinances

1. It is recommended that Jason McCarthy work together with Bob DellAngelo to update language in Zoning Ordinances
2. It was recommended by Julia Leake that it is not advisable for the entire revised Zoning Ordinance document to be sent to the Michigan Township Board all at once. Rather, that sections that have been completed be sent to the Township Board as they are completed. This would allow for board members to thoroughly read and understand the zoning ordinance revisions.

D. Discuss Implementation of Master Plan (once approved)

1. Jan Anderson suggested that a portion of each Zoning Commission meeting be devoted to discussion and brainstorming one section of the Master Plan.
2. A checklist should be developed to determine which of the objectives have been met.

E. New Zoning Permits

1. Fritz and Ramona Curth, 208 Brown Road, Screen Porch, 52-09-328-017-00
2. Nate Smith, 106 Green Road, Deck, 52-09-327-005-00

3. Nate Smith, 106 Green Road, fence, 52-09-327-005-00

IV. Correspondence

A. Letter to be sent to James Brennan, Republic Township regarding VHRs

V. Public Comment – None

Adjournment: 7:59 pm

Next meeting: May 13, 2021, 6:30 pm