

MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

2024 Annual Report

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Planning Commission is responsible for oversight of the Zoning and Planning in Michigamme Township. By working with the Zoning Administrator, Ordinance Enforcement Officer, the Township Board, and Board of Appeals, the Planning Commission maintains the direction of the Master/Recreational Plan. The Board of Appeals is an ad hoc committee that meets for issues that cannot be resolved otherwise or for issues only under their purview. All members, aside from the Township Board liaison and a Planning Commission member assigned to the Board of Appeals, are chosen from applications taken from the community at large. The Township Supervisor chooses the applicants to recommend to the Township Board, who then vote. All members receive a stipend set by the Township Board. Their participation is vital and is much appreciated.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS ANNUAL REPORT:

The Michigan Planning Enabling Act calls for an annual report which is reelected in the local Township Bylaws and supports the Master Plan. The information reported to the Township Board concerning the status of planning activities, including recommendations regarding actions by the legislative body related to planning and development. The Planning Commission's future priorities are the recreation plan, zoning and civil ordinances, and the master plan completion. Members of the Planning Commission are thanked for their continued service to Michigamme Township.

3. MEMBERSHIP:

For this annual 2024 report the members included are: Township Board Liaison John Gregg (Term ends 11/20/2028), Chairperson Kathleen Frisk (appointed until 1/2028), Secretary Irene DeRoche (appointed until 1/2026), Member William Seppanen (appointed until 1/2028), and member Laura Mattson (appointment until 1/2028).

Previous Planning Commission member Marsha McBride whose membership ended since she was elected Michigamme Township Treasurer.

4. MEETINGS:

The Planning Commission meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm., unless there is no business to conduct. Meeting times and dates are adjusted at times for all members being able to meet together for regular meetings. Special meetings are scheduled during the year to work on projects or other special purposes. The commission met for 11 regular meetings and 7 Special Meetings (Workshops) in 2024.

5. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

The position of Zoning Administrator is Mike Simula that the Michigamme Township Board hired in March 2023. 25 Michigamme Township Zoning Permits were issued in 2024.

6. ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

The position of Ordinance Enforcement Officer, Joleen Dutcher was hired by the Michigamme Township Board in September 2023. Joleen Dutcher resigned May 2024.

7. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS:

Members of the Board of Appeals serve for a two-year appointment. Active members that were appointed in 2022 are Greg Murphy and Tammy Schultz. Presently, a Planning Commission member for an appointment to the Board of Review is pending.

8. MASTER PLAN

The Planning Commission realizes the importance of the Master Plan and is currently in the process of updating the document.

9. ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

All Zoning Ordinance Amendments must be reviewed and must coordinate with the Master Plan once it is adopted.

10. SHORT TERM RENTAL APPLICATIONS

There are currently 7 Short Term Rental Permits issued out of 25 allowed in Michigamme Township.

11. RECREATION PLAN

The Michigamme Township Recreation Plan is valid by the State of Michigan for 2021-2026. The Park Grant has been approved and Construction was completed in 2024.

12. TRAINING

Planning Commission members are encouraged to attend educational training in 2025.

13. CONCLUSION

Planning the future of our community through zoning and civil ordinances are an important part of ensuring that Michigamme Township continues to be safe, pleasant, and a prosperous environment for all citizens and visitors. The Planning Commission has made significant progress on achieving goals. These goals will become more clearly identified by working on and adoption of the Master Plan. The community will be better positioned to move forward fulfilling the vast potential of Michigamme Township.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michigamme Township Planning Commission