



DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2018 at Deerfield Township Hall

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by chairman Jim Wynes at 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Connie Lynch, Chairman Jim Wynes, Dan McGuire, Tom Kromer, Jonas Cook, Roger Lintemuth and Zoning Administrator Melissa Nelson.

ABSENT: Virginia Wood

ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA: No additions. Motion to approve by Kromer, seconded by Lynch. Approved 6-0

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 7, 2017 MINUTES: Motion by Lynch to approve as presented, seconded by McGuire. Approved 6-0.

PUBLIC HEARING ON MASTER PLAN REVIEW: Discussion noted that there had been few changes, mostly minimal wording, grammar and format. One change was that a previous zoning designation of Quasi-Public was unnecessary and had been dropped. There had been extensive input on the review and it will now be submitted to the Township Board for their review and action. Copies are available at the Township offices. The original Master Plan was part of township zoning adopted in 2001 and the review was part of a recommended updating.

Zoning Administrator's Report:

In response to a question about wind and solar energy projects affecting the township, Nelson reported that there hadn't been any contact on solar farms and some interest in wind energy. Isabella County is currently dealing with both.

Public comment: Terry Meier noted that the township and property owners should look carefully at the contracts being offered for wind energy projects. He pointed out that they appear to be for 34 years and 11 months and give considerable authority to the leasing company. Helen Meier reported that the better winds in mid-Michigan appear to be higher and that new towers could be even higher than those in the Alma/Ithaca area.

Nelson responded that she would look into related research information, including seeing what the Michigan Township Association had available, and distribute to Planning Commission members and have available at the Township Hall offices.

Old Business: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A presentation was made by Kimberly Yob of Shades of Green Consulting, LLC on medical marijuana and a business proposal by Delbert Garrett and Doug Lentz of GCC Organics for a medical marijuana. The proposed site is a 120 acres near the corner of River and Littlefield Roads. It was noted that the State of Michigan has regulations and may be encouraging local agencies to write rules that reflect the respective communities. No official applications have been made and the Planning Commission now plans an extensive review of the subject. Nelson will identify related information, including Michigan Township Association materials, to be distributed to Planning Commission members and the topic may be discussed at future meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Terry Meier noted that other townships had been approached for approving marijuana facilities and could opt in or opt out.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made at 8:50 pm. Motion was made by Lynch, seconded by Kromer.

NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2018 at 7 p.m.