

Vernon Township
Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Present: Larry Sprague, John Wolf, Janeene Temple, Chris Corwin, Nathan Charles, and Benjamin Telford.

Absent: Levi Zdunic

The public hearing on the adoption of the Master Plan was opened at 7:01 pm

Chairman Larry Sprague read an opening statement regarding the planning commission's role in the process and thanked all its members for their work on the Master Plan. He also thanked McKenna for their work in assisting the planning commission and the township in drafting the Master Plan. The audience was given a few moments to review the Master Plan, and no comments were made during the hearing.

The proposed Resolution of Adoption for the Vernon Township Master Plan Vernon Township Planning Commission was read aloud.

Motion: John Wolf motioned and Janeene Temple seconded to adopt the Resolution of Adoption for the Vernon Township Master Plan Vernon Township Planning Commission as read and presented. Roll Call, all yes. Zdunic Absent.

With no further on the Master Plan, Chairman Larry Sprague called for a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion: Janeene Temple motioned, and Ben Telford seconded to close the public hearing. All yes, motion carried, and the public hearing was closed.

The agenda was reviewed, and the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure was added to new business.

The January 2, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed with no changes.

Motion: A motion was made by Janeene Temple and seconded by John Wolf to approve the minutes of January 2, 2024, with no changes. All yes, motion carried.

There were no resident concerns for this meeting.

Old Business:

- Review of Wind & Solar Ordinances – Commissioner John Wolf reviewed the proposed Wind and Solar Ordinances and comments were provided to all members. McKenna has offered to review these and provide feedback to finalize the ordinances. There was discussion on doing stand-alone ordinances versus adding them to the Township Zoning Ordinances and finalizing the Zoning Ordinances. The planning commission is going to add these two ordinances to the Vernon Township Zoning Ordinances and start the process of finalizing the Zoning Ordinance. The process would start with a public hearing, which the commission will try to have ready for the March 4, 2024 meeting.
- M1 and M2 zoning. The planning commission will continue a review of current M1 and M2 zoning to see if portions need to be updated or reviewed for adaptation with the township. McKenna offered to provide definition language that may assist commission members in reviewing this zoning.

New Business:

- The Chairman of the Planning Commission asked that the Township Clerk look into the possibility of appointing a Vice Chairman for the Planning Commission. The Clerk was able to locate the last version of the Vernon Township Planning Commission Rules of Procedure, which was adopted in 2002. The Clerk noted that things within the procedure were not being adhered to and that these procedures should be reviewed and renewed at future meetings. The clerk also noted that per the commission's procedures, the secretary should be from among planning commission members and not the township clerk. She is unsure how this process came about but feels that it should go back to the commission as their rules state. The clerk is more than willing to continue filtering information through her office to the commission. McKenna stated that they have draft bylaws that they would be willing to share with the commission and the clerk will forward those and the current procedures to commission members for their review. Any appointment or election of Vice Chair and Secretary will be made at a future meeting.

The next meeting date is March 4, 2024, at 7:00 pm. The location will be at the normal location of 6801 S Durand Rd, Durand, MI 48429.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Susan Bannister
Vernon Township Clerk