

Vernon Township
Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

Present: John Wolf, Larry Sprague, Janeene Temple, Gary Pabts and Benjamin Telford.

Absent: Levi Zdunic, and Chris Corwin.

Also present was John Jackson and Kyle Mucha from McKenna.

The agenda was reviewed, and no items were added.

The minutes of the May 1, 2023, meeting were reviewed.

Motion: A motion was made by Janeene Temple and seconded by John Wolf to approve the minutes of May 1, 2023, minutes, with no changes. All yes, motion carried.

New Business:

Larry Sprague has reviewed the interim zoning ordinances and believes that the only major issues that need to be addressed at this time are solar farms and wind turbines. The township board has addressed wind turbines in the past and a ordinance was passed regarding them. The clerk will try to locate that information and make sure it is distributed to everyone. Other than those two issues, the chair believes that the focus of the planning commission should be the master plan.

The Chair, Larry Sprague, spent about 2 and half hours with representatives of McKenna reviewing various locations throughout the township. Township Trustee Janet Sprague noted that the township board met at a special meeting on May 22, 2023. The township board is directing the planning commission to build in through the master plan and zoning ordinances the ability to utilize the location known as “the land.” Additionally, the existing footprint for the “mega site” should be decreased from 1400 acres to 800 acres to allow for controlled growth. Keeping in mind that the 800 acres will allow the site to maintain the label of “mega site’ and maintain any State benefits that would be available to the township.

The location of the “mega site” was discussed and the planning commission along with McKenna will focus on this site being east of Brown Rd. to Byron Rd. and south of Bennington Rd. to Lansing Rd. to better fit the needs of the township. Trustee Sprague also noted that a letter is being sent to residents in this area from the SEDP to gauge interest in participating should a project become available for this location.

Old Business:

McKenna stated that with no major issue regarding zoning they will begin to put together a draft document of the zoning ordinances for the planning commission to review at their next meeting.

It was agreed upon that McKenna will provide draft documents of the zoning ordinances for the next meeting. The clerk will distribute those documents to commission members who should review and be ready to discuss at the next planning commission meeting. Since this will take a little bit of time, it was decided that the next meeting of the commission will be in August of 2023.

Next meeting date – August 7, 2023, at 7:00 pm

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Gary Pabts and seconded by John Wolf. All yes, motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.