

MINUTES
MONTCALM TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Zoom Meeting
March 03, 2021, 7:00pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Chairman Richard Karnatz led the Pledge of Allegiance

CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Richard Karnatz called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

- Members present: Richard Karnatz (Chair), Erin Nerychel (Secretary), Jessica Shearer (Board Liaison), Robert Hemmes (Commission Member), Jeff Dolphin (Vice Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals Liaison)
- Members absent: none

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Richard Karnatz added master plan discussion to the agenda.
- Robert Hemmes made a motion to approve the agenda. Jessica Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Jessica Shear made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2020 meeting. Robert Hemmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

- None

COMMENTS FROM PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Richard Karnatz commented on conflict of interest relating to lease with a wind turbine company and will put township interest before personal interests.

NEW BUSINESS

- Review of planning commission by-laws
 - Reviewed Montcalm Township Planning Commission By-laws

- Discussed conflict of interest and how it is applied in a legislative matter and administrative matter.
- Discussed response from township attorney regarding conflict of interest.
- Election of officers of planning commission for 2021
 - Discussed keeping officers as they are.
 - Jeff Dolphin motioned to elected Richard Karnatz as Chair, Erin Nerychel as Secretary, Jessica Shearer as Board Liaison, Robert Hemmes as Commission Member, and Jeff Dolphin Vice Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals Liaison. Robert Hemmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Roll call vote:
 - Robert Hemmes - yes
 - Jeff Dolphin - yes
 - Jessica Shearer - yes
 - Erin Nerychel - yes
 - Richard Karnatz - yes
- Discussion of hunting cabins or blinds
 - Discussed permanent hunting cabins or blinds. Robert Hemmes to do further research for the next planning commission meeting.
- Further review of "Flat River Natural Zoning" Requirements
 - Discussed recommendations from the MSU Extension office for the state natural river zoning requirements
 - Richard Karnatz recommended sending the MSU Extension recommendations to the township attorney to create a draft ordinance.
 - Robert Hemmes motioned to send the MSU Extension recommendations to the township attorney to create a draft ordinance. Jessica Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Master Plan Discussion
 - Discussed master plan review and if there is a need for a budget to re-write the master plan. Further investigation is needed and will add this items to May 5, 2021 meeting agenda.
- Review of email received from resident
 - Discussed email from resident concerned about wind turbines. Discussed concerns about conflict of interest and due diligence.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review of section 7.24 of zoning ordinance (WECF'S)
 - Discussed recommendations for revision from township attorney. Detail review of recommendations will be added to the May 5, 2021 meeting agenda.
 - Discussed making further changes to the ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Adam Peterson – commented in appreciation of what the planning commission is doing.
- Darren Ladermann – commented on commercial wind turbines and in favor of stricter requirements.
- Rachelle Lentz – commented on conflict of interest concerns and commercial wind turbines requirements for participating and non-participating property owners.
- Renee Smith (non-township resident) – commented on commercial wind turbines and set-backs.
- Tim Rau – commented on commercial wind turbines and public notices
- Robert and Kay Scott (non-township resident) – commented for stricter requirements for commercial wind turbines.
- Norm Stevens (non-township resident) – commented on wind turbines and for adding more detailed requirements to ordinance.
- Olivia Blomstrom – commented on master plan and in favor of strengthening ordinance for commercial wind turbines.
- Greg Swartz – commented against commercial wind turbines.
- Christa Baldwin (non-township resident) – Commented on commercial wind turbine tax disputes.
- Mike Morore – commented against commercial wind turbines.
- Brian O’Shea (Apex representative) – Commented on commercial wind turbines tax disputes.
- Rob Moroney – commented against commercial wind turbines
- Pamela Hemmes – commented against commercial wind turbines and in favor of stricter requirements.
- David Ellis – commented on public comment from people outside the township and question about wind patterns in this area.

ADJOURNMENT

- Jeff Dolphin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jessica Shear seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Nerychel, Planning Commission Secretary