

MINUTES
MONTCALM TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
January 25, 2022, 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 7:00 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

- Jeff Dolphin motioned to approve the Jan 25, 2022 agenda. Jessica Shearer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Jessica Shear made a motion to approve the minutes from December 1, 2021 meeting. Jeff Dolphin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

- None

COMMENTS FROM PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

Training Opportunities

- Michigan Association of Planning has training opportunities in person and virtual.
- Discussed number of classes and cost to for budget planning.

Junk Vehicles

- Discussed issues with the accumulation of unregistered/inoperable vehicles around the township.
- Discussed if there should be a specified number of inoperable vehicles allowed and if it should be based on zoning district.
- Discussed visibility
- Discussed options on how to improve the ordinance and the ability to enforce it. Ideas discussed included: Register with the township the intent of registerable vehicle (would need a tracking system), police power ordinance, civil infraction, blight ordinance.
- Discussed keeping the focus narrow and specific
- Jeff Dolphin motioned to table junk vehicle discussion. Robert Hemmes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commercial WECF's Discussion

- Richard Karnatz recused himself.
- Reviewed changes to the draft made during the Dec meeting.
- Discussed sending the draft to the township attorney for review and when to send it.
- Discussed security fencing and if it should be required around the tower if it's not capable to be climbed.
- Jeff Dolphin motioned to replace Section 5.j Security Fencing of the draft ordinance with section 7.24.C.9 Safety Measures subsection a through d of the existing ordinance. Add fencing to be in place within 30 days of the commercial WECs location being in operation. Erin Nerychel seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Discussed performance bond, insurance requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Rachelle Lentz (township resident) – commented on cost, time and practicality of a planner
- Pamela Hemmes (township resident) – commented on a planner and commented on bordering township ordinances.
- Robert Scott (non-township resident) – provided a handout, commented on wind turbines and planner.
- Township resident - Commented on wind turbine draft ordinance and planner.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Nerychel, Planning Commission Secretary