

Williamstown Township Planning Commission

Annual Report

April, 2021 – March, 2022

Planning Commissioners: Gerald Eidt (Chair), Rob Stanford (vice-chair), Commissioners Annette Davis, Dali Giese (Secretary), Rex LaMore, Jim Flore, Toby Weston, Donna Tocarchick, and Twp. Board Trustee Keith Creagh. (Commissioner LaMore resigned in September after 23 years of service.) Ron Poth was appointed to the commission by the township board at their February 9, 2022 meeting.

Staff: Chris Doozan from McKenna Associates and Jim Howard.

Meetings

Due to the continuing Covid 19 Virus situation the May 2021 meeting was held remotely via Zoom, and the first in-person meeting was held in July. The September meeting was held remotely and the November, 2021 meeting was rescheduled to 11/22/21 and also held remotely. The regular in-person meeting schedule resumed in January, 2022.

- Rezoning

None

- SUPs and Site Plan Review

- 181 Haslett / Barkham Creek Farm, May, 2021: PC recommended approval with conditions at its 5/26/21 meeting; the Township Board approved it at its 6/9/21 meeting.
- 1432 E. Grand River / JBJ Products and Machinery: PC recommended approval with conditions at its 7/28/21 meeting; Township Board approved it at the 11/10/21 meeting with the variance from the ZBA.
- Williamston Storage/1099 E. Grand River: PC recommended approval by the Township board at its January 26, 2022 meeting; the Township Board approved the project at its March 9, 2022 meeting.

- Site Plan Review

None

- Subdivision Ordinance Updates

None

- Subdivision Plat

None

- Miscellaneous

- Approved 2020/2021 Annual Report at the May 26, 2021 meeting.
- A MI Association of Planning training, “Roles and Responsibilities” was held remotely on November 9, 2021 with township board members and ZBA members also in attendance.

- Zoning Ordinance Updates

- Cluster Zoning amendment: After several meetings of the committee, the PC held a public hearing on March 24, 2021 and approved a motion recommending approval of the draft to the Township Board; The Township Board adopted the amendment at its June 9, 2021 meeting.
- NIESA: language clarifying and specifying review by NIESA was approved by the PC at its September meeting and forwarded to the township Board with a recommendation for approval; It was adopted by the Township Board at the September 8, 2021 meeting.
- Events Barns: The township board recommended a joint committee of 2 bd. members and 2 pc members be formed, which met on 9/27/21, 10/19/21, 11/3/21, 12/13/21 and 2/15/22. The Planning commission set a public hearing for the May 2022 meeting.
- Farm Animals Permit Committee/Farm Animals on Non-Farm Parcels Committee (FANFPC): The Permit Committee met once before the Covid disruption. The FANFP Committee was later formed and met on 3/31/21 to review an initial draft from Planning Consultant Chris Doozan, with the intent of forwarding it to the full PC for review at its next meeting. A revised draft was recommended for approval by the Township Board at the PC’s meeting of 1/26/22. The Township Board approved the amendment at its March 9, 2022 meeting.

- Elections Committee

The PC approved current slate of Eidt (chair), Stanford (vice-chair) and Giese (secretary) at the November 22, 2021 meeting

New Residential Construction

- 4396 Zimmer
- 2110 Haslett
- 6439 Zimmer
- 5525 Shaftsburg
- (32 Agate Way - fire)
- 3805 Zimmer

15 Solar permits issued

Land Divisions/Combinations

There were 11 applications processed which resulted in a net of 16 new parcels in the Township during the 2021 calendar year, most of which occurred in Baan Gan Aka.

Township Parks Improvements

Routine maintenance activities