

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES – 7/27/22

CALL TO ORDER

The Williamstown Township Planning Commission convened at 7:00pm at the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston, MI. Chair Eidt called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

PRESENT: Chair Eidt, Commissioners Weston, Giese, Tocarchick, Flore, Davis, Poth and Trustee Creagh.

ABSENT: Stanford. Quorum established.

ALSO PRESENT: Planning Consultant Chris Doozan of McKenna and Jim Howard, Planning Assistant.

Chair Eidt led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Davis, second by Poth to approve the agenda.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Davis, second by Weston to approve the minutes of May 25, 2022.

Motion approved 8– 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Closed public comment at 7:07pm.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Event Barns*

Chair Eidt did an introduction and update on the topic. Brief discussion regarding the implications of the Old Mission Peninsula wineries case.

Motion by Tocarchick, second by Weston to refer the issue back to the Joint Committee based on the potential impact of the Old Mission wineries court case, and schedule a public hearing at the September PC meeting.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

The intent is to have the joint committee meet in August.

NEW BUSINESS

○ *Home Occupations*

1) Telecommuting

Chris Doozan provided background information on the issue and the impact the Covid situation has had with more people working from home, and that it would be a simple fix to avoid the potential for selective enforcement.

Much discussion ensued as to whether it is needed at all and why.

Chair Eidt reiterated that the action would be only to have Mr. Doozan provide the Planning Commission with draft language to review.

Motion by Poth, second by Creagh to have Mr. Doozan draft language to add telecommuting in the home occupation section of the ordinance.

Ayes: Eidt, Flore, Poth, Davis, Creagh.

Nays; Tocarchick, Giese, Weston.

Motion approved 5 – 3.

2) Medical Marijuana

Chris Doozan reviewed the three state laws pertaining medical marijuana, how other communities have found it useful to regulate it under this framework, and that this would not pertain to recreational marijuana.

Discussion ensued about why we would want to do this and the smell involved.

Motion by Davis, second by Tocarchick to have Mr. Doozan draft language to regulate medical marijuana under the Home Occupation Section (2.06) of the Zoning Ordinance.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

Chris D briefly reviewed PA 281 of 2016 the Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act.

- *Farm signs on residential properties*

Discussion ensued about the issue and clarification that it involves permanent signs and not temporary or seasonal signs for farm products, and the districts that would be involved.

Motion by Giese, second by Davis to have Chris D draft language for Article 7/Signs to accommodate farm signs on residential properties.

Motion approved 8 – 0.

PLANNING AND BOARD REPORTS AND REVIEW

Trustee Creagh mentioned the educational opportunities available through MTA, that the Township Board approved the Oddfellows project and that there is an e-mail address change in process.

Chair Eidt mentioned that this is Commissioner Davis's last meeting, thanked her for her service, that she always came well-prepared and that she will be missed.

Commissioner Weston mentioned that the strategic planning information and goals are good, in particular the discussion about paths to schools.

Commissioner Giese displayed information from her laptop about the forest planting project at Community Park and the watering mechanics involved, and offered her sincere appreciation to Supervisor Bloomquist for all of her hard work and effort on the project.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Tim and Cheryl Brady about event barns was included in the packet.

CITIZEN COMMENT

None

REVIEW

Chair Eidt reviewed the PC's actions from the meeting:

- Approved the minutes of the May 25, 2022 meeting;
- Referred the event barns proposed draft ordinance amendment back to the joint committee for further review in light of a current court decision;
- Requested that Chris Doozan draft language for telecommuting and medical marijuana under Section 2.06/Home Occupations of the zoning ordinance;
- Requested that Chris Doozan draft language for farm signs on residential properties under Article 7 of the zoning ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Davis, second by Commissioner Weston to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Jim Howard, Recording Secretary

Secretary Giese