

**Whitewater Township Planning Commission
Minutes of Meeting held on March 18, 2009
OPEN HOUSE**

Call to Order

Chairman Zakrajsek called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM at Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, MI.

Roll Call

Members Present: Boyd, Courtade (arrived at 5:25 PM), Lyons, Mangus, Miller, Savage and Zakrajsek. Also attending: Planning/Zoning Administrator Meyers, Planning Intern Akers and 30 members of the public.

Set/Adjust Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

Public Comment

The meeting was an open house format, with residents and property owners meeting one on one with Planning commissioners and discussing ideas for Whitewater Township's future.

The following are comments made to individual Planning Commissioners:

- Speed reduction on Williamsburg Rd around the Millbrook entrance.
- PC and Board to allow comments during agenda discussion.
- Use Facebook to communicate with the public.
- Home Occupations are very important to the community.
- Non-conforming structures – wording is currently causing problems.
- More lenient rules for accessory structures.
- Why are there private road setbacks?
- M-72 Corridor – work with tribe, approval of the trust and why 500 ft.?
- Changes in zoning to lakefront lots created non-conformities.
- Boat launches at road ends (Keego Harbor).
- Elk Lake Rd by Cram Rd needs to be widened.
- Truax Lake – special assessment for paving roads – millage.
- Same lot sizes throughout the entire Township.
- Design and plan for a Village.
- Limit the length of the document that you produce.
- More mailings for Township issues.
- Junk Ordinance – enforce.
- There is a house inside a barn that was built without permits.
- Need multi-family zoning for apartments – suggests 6 units per acre.
- Lose 500 ft. setback on M-72.
- Prefer a boulevard for M-72.
- Against property takings through zoning.
- Do not create new non-conformities with new regulations.
- Professional survey is not needed.

- Protect wetlands.
- Enforce nuisance laws.
- Maintain 5 acre lot sizes.
- Moved here for the beauty and nature.
- Think Road Commission did a poor job on the shoulder and driveways along Elk Lake Rd.
- Truck speeds are too high near the entrances to the Village area.
- 500 ft. setback is bad for new business.
- Get rid of 5 acre lot sizes.
- Adopt rules for Skype.
- Keep the Master Plan short and simple.
- Groundwater concerns.
- Keep Fire Station simple.
- Preserve farms.
- Reasonable rules and regulations.
- Trail Parks are essential.
- PC needs to repair its relationship with people they serve. Remove the arrogant attitude.
- Township park space needed south of M-72 – playground type.
- Need effective signage.
- New ordinance should not diminish property values nor curb creativity.
- Encourage local produce.
- Encourage more commercial development.
- Stay out of aesthetics.
- Permitted non-conformities should remain permitted uses.

Written comments attached to minutes.

Meeting adjourned – 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Meyers
Acting Recording Secretary