

WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING, February 6, 2013

Call to Order: 7:06 pm by Chair Mangus

Roll Call: Link, Miller, Mangus, Bowerman

Absent: Dean, Lawson and Lyons

Also in attendance: Supervisor Popp, Recording Secretary MacLean plus 7 in attendance

Set/Adjust Agenda:

Approval of Minutes:

December 5, 2012: Motion to approve with change (“by pass” to “bike path”) by Miller, seconded by Bowerman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

January 2, 2013: Motion by Bowerman to approve, seconded by Miller. All in favor. Motion carried.

January 16, 2013: Motion by Link to approve, seconded by Bowerman. All in favor. Motion carried.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest – None

Public Comment: None

Public Hearing: None

Reports:

Correspondence: None

Zoning Administrator: Report-attached. Wayne Schmidt sits on house committee to finance roads.

TC-TALUS: Will start charging \$286 per year. Should we recommend to the board?

Township Board Representative: Lawson: N/A

Chair: None

Question: Natural Gas update? Larry Lake is the liason. It may take more public prodding.

80% of the needed minimum is signed up.

Old Business:

1. Bylaws review, Oath of Office

- a. Approval of Bylaws to forward to Township Board. Functional guideline has been to have meeting information out 1 week prior to the meeting. Incorporate into by-laws? Read through Michigan Open Meetings Act information. Read through The Clerk’s Guide, Incompatibility questions for planning. Inform the Board when changes are made for example when the ZBA representative changes. Membership representation, Section 1, E. Have the Board review the list creating 5 or 6 categories, with a request for simplification. Member representative is the go to person for specific categories. **Motion by Miller to ask the board to review and simplify list, limiting to 6 categories, seconded by Link. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Minutes on the web.

Annual written report to the Township Board. It was happening from the ZA. Not detailed, just highlights, attendance status. Generate a report. Include a forecast of what is being planned to be covered in the next year, a priorities list.

Education: Current guideline is to complete education training each year. Continuing Education is a regular item on the Agenda, have been doing “in-house”. Compensation for trainings: This is considered a volunteer/community service; members can choose not to submit expenses for reimbursement. What about making up for lost wages? For mandatory meetings/trainings? Mileage is a way to get reimbursed. Members can attend a specialty conference and report back. Investing money into training is not a bad thing, makes a lot of sense. Invest in our people first. Some minimal compensation for trainings, etc.

Our addition of a future topics list, tabled item list, commission discussion to be added as additional Agenda items.

Discussion: Years ago the Planning Commission Oath of Office was put into the By-Laws by the PC but removed by the Board. A way to keep members’ awareness of the importance of what is being asked of them. Previous Board said it was not necessary. PC makes recommendations to Board only.

Let’s let the rest of the commission weigh in on the by-laws and come back to it.

2. Master Plan

- a. Transportation Section review: Part 6: Mangus: 1st sentence and last sentence only. Pat Miller: Simplify and make recommendations and will bring it back at the regular meeting, March 6. Quick run through for Miller's information. Time-line needs to be kept in mind. Road designations: Arterials, Primary, Secondary, Tourist roads, local roads, private roads seasonal roads. Local roads: "moderate to low speeds and traffic" strike the words "lowest priority". Give examples and what is the percentage of private roads we have, road way miles? Constructed and maintained with private funding accessing private property. Kim will forward Pat her change ideas.
Pedestrian Bike Path Plan, page 24: Remove first paragraph. Pat Miller will handle this also. TART's stated route is to get to Elk Rapids through Whitewater Township, known as Route 35. Conservancy and TART are working together.
M72 Corridor Access Management: Pat Miller to handle this also.
- b. Future Land Use Map, postpone until full board available. Some new maps coming forth.

3. Tabled Items – tabled ☺.

- a. Moving Tabled items to topics database

New Business:

n/a

Public Comment:

Arnell Boyd, 6447 Baggs Rd.: To the Supervisor and PC, TC-TALUS is stuck, we can rejoin once they get their act together, save the money. Working relationships with the GT Band and township, reference was in regards to the Acme Meeting. Bike Path rubs me backward, bikes use the road and do not pay any taxes. If they are going to ride on the road they should have license and fees.

Next Meeting, February 20: Topics for Agenda: Continued discussion regarding by-laws. Discuss assigning people to take point on specific sections (list to come from the Board). Future Land Use Map.

March 6 meeting: Miller's Transportation Plan changes with Pedestrian and Bike Plan, M72 Corridor Access Management.

Adjournment: 8:59.

TABLED ITEMS: Non-conformities; Permitted and Special Uses; Essential Services; Fences, Village District; TC-TALUS; Road Map with setbacks and boundaries; Tabled Items;

Respectfully Submitted by Lois MacLean, Recording Secretary