

DRAFT  
WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF 04/20/2011 SPECIAL MEETING

Call to Order by Zakrajsek at 7:03 pm

Roll Call: Present: Lyons, Miller, Courtade, Boyd, Mangus and Zakrajsek (chair)  
Absent: Dean

Public Comment: None

Business: Master Plan

Meyers supplied a draft of the Plan in its current form, plus Census information.

Goals 1 and 2 presented as previously discussed. Goals 3 and 4 have not yet been discussed.

Possibly organize the goals in a different manner.

- Boyd suggested rearranging the goals, making 2 as 1, 3 as 2, 1 as 3, 4 as 4. There was a verbal agreement on rearrangement.

Starting with the “new” #1:

- Mangus wants to make sure this does not lead to an ordinance/rule on someone cutting down a tree.

- No mention of agricultural conservation. Lyons: AG is covered by GAAMP. Possibly add a reference to agricultural as a bullet point.

- Mangus: The goals must be looked at with thought of where the goals will lead in terms of rules and ordinances.

- End the statement after the word Township.

- Add cottage businesses in 1 or 4.

- There are a lot of environmental laws that cover the wetlands and watersheds.

- Comment – Brad Link from the audience. Conserve a district the way it is now and keep it that way.

Meyers: Not necessarily. Maintain the character of the District. Mangus/Meyers: the districts may change. As an example: Do not want to see bright street lights in 130 acre area near his place if a subdivision goes in whereas, the M-72 corridor needs the bright lights.

- Mangus: Possibly change “environmental need” to “environmental necessity”.

The new #2: Bullet point 2:

- Take out the words “scale and”.

- Change the end to read: commercial and village districts.

- Mangus states that some of the businesses have expressed an interest in making the business district more walk-able by creating shared drives, etc. MDOT encourages shared drive-ways, inter-connected parking lots. Zakrajsek: Nothing prevents businesses from putting in walks.

Bullet point #4: Historic sites:

- Mangus: is concerned about the direction labeling something as “Historic” can lead. Meyers: Historic preservation can lead to grants and other help also.

The New #3

- Mangus: add the word “Private” in front of property rights. Double check the legal definition. ((Leslie: FYI, previously the word individual was in this spot - found it in the old pre-draft minutes) To read: To respect the private property rights. . .

Goal #4 Encourage Economic Opportunities:

-Mangus: take out “high quality sustainable”. Very uncomfortable with the word “sustainable” as it is currently used as a term for “green energy”. Courtade, Lyons, Boyd likes the word quality in there. Define sustainable, something that can survive, last.

- Meyers: Encouraging / promoting not requiring gives the opportunity for creativity and flexibility.

- Courtade: We have to be able to count on future board members using common sense. Every generation has the right make their changes.

- Long term viability or viable instead of sustainable. Sustainable is a buzz word.

- End the line after Residents and add Southern Elk Lake Chain to goal #1.

- Bullet point 2, strike limited.

- Bullet point 3: strike new.

Meyers will clean this up for May meeting. Next up: working on maps and districts.

Next month there will be a Public Hearing on Farm Animals and the Outdoor Furnaces.

Meyers: regarding medical marijuana: Asked the MTA Legal Q & A about being silent on caregivers? Our own attorney responded and says to address it. The state does not limit the number of caregivers per house. We as a township we can. Limit to one? Limit to one couple? Response from the newsletter from an older gentleman, cancer patient who would like to come in and discuss. MTA has an article regarding medical marijuana also.

Meyers: FYI: Noah Moothart, a 13 year old wants to put a ski course on Skegemog Lake in front of the Battle Creek Natural Area. Supervisor Lake said it will need to go through the Planning Commission. Noah is planning to be here for the May meeting. This is something that really should go through a Parks and Rec. Board but we do not have one.

**Motion by Boyd, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lyons to adjourn at 8:33 PM. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary, Lois MacLean.