

Pennfield Charter Township

Planning Commission Meeting

Minutes of March 5, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at Pennfield Middle School Cafeteria. Members present were Paul Anderson, Jon Bartlett, Jack Pooler, Brad Messenger and Mickey Harris. Curtis Whitaker and Elaine Walter were excused. A quorum was met. New member Mickey Harris was sworn in by Clerk Kathy Case prior to the beginning of this meeting (filling the position previously held by Jay Weiss).

Others present: Supervisor Rob Behnke, Planner Russ Wicklund, Recording Secretary Sandra Cummings, and one resident.

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Brad Messenger made a motion, seconded by Jon Bartlett, to approve the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2012. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Discussion on new Master Plan Map for Pennfield Township.

Mr. Wicklund discussed the handout on Demographic Profiles based upon the 2010 United States Census. He pointed out that Pennfield has plenty of acreage for potential growth and development, and that this area may see a shift in needs based on an aging population, with a desire for older residents to remain in their homes. The Board discussed the need for more diversity, such as cooperative housing, condominiums with shared elements such as yards and gardens, and other amenities such as parks and trails. Other items on the Township's "wish list" are the need to extend municipal water and sewer lines, creating parks and nature trails, and promoting Pennfield's natural resources such as river frontage, with the possibility of creating access points for canoes and kayaks.

The Planning Commission members felt that the current Master Plan is still viable the way it is, and until we get our first large development, we are in a holding pattern as it relates to the above listed items.

b) Discussion on amendments to the signage requirements under the Township Zoning Ordinance

Mr. Wicklund discussed the work on the signage amendments. He will fine-tune the amendments, adding some graphics which will help to clarify the text of the amendments.

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Mr. Wicklund stated that he will present the final form to the Planning Commission members at the April meeting, then conduct a Public Hearing at the May meeting. After that, it will be presented to the County Planning Commission for recommendation, and then back to the Pennfield Township Board members for possible approval in July.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Brad Messsenger, seconded by Jack Pooler, to move the April 2, 2012 Planning Commission meeting to April 9, 2012, as many members will be out of town for Spring Break on April 2. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

MDOT will be conducting a public meeting the first week of June regarding the M-66 Bridge replacement scheduled for July. The date and location will be announced later.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Jack Pooler stated that the State of Michigan has now issued 131,000 approvals for medical marijuana users.

Brad Messenger requests that we keep Elaine Walter in our thoughts as she recovers from an illness.

Paul Anderson stated that a long-time Pennfield businessman, Thom Taylor, owner of Capital Florist, has recently passed away. We are saddened at the loss of a loyal Township supporter.

Brad Messenger made a motion, seconded by Jon Bartlett, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Sandra Cummings

Recording Secretary