

WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP

7644 Durham Rd., Whitehall, MI 49461

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2024

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1800 by Sharon Sikkenga, Chairperson.

II. Roll Call

Planning Commission Members Present: Kathy Dusseau, Connie Bonner, Angel Quinn, Carmen Rodriguez, Amy Rusin, Sharon Sikkenga, Tom Zmolek. Also present: Arnie Erb, Supervisor and Joyce Moehlman.

III. Election of Planning Commission Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary

- a. Motion made by Dusseau and supported by Rodriguez to elect Sikkenga as Chairperson. Motion carried all in favor.
- b. Motion made by Rusin and supported by Quinn to elect Rodriguez as Vice-Chairperson. Motion carried all in favor.
- c. Motion made by Dusseau and supported by Rodriguez to elect Rusin as Secretary. Motion carried all in favor.
- d. Discussion on meeting requirements per bylaws. Continue with meeting the first Wednesday of the month at 1800. No regular meetings in July or December. Sikkenga will email out 2024 meeting schedule.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Agenda Approval

Motion made by Dusseau and supported by Rodriguez to approve agenda as written. Motion carried all in favor.

VI. Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2023

Motion by Rodriguez to approve meeting minutes from October 4, 2023, as submitted and second by Quinn. Motion carried all in favor.

VII. Public Comment

Moehlman inquired if the planning commissioners get paid when no monthly meeting has been held and how much does each get paid. Sikkenga replied commissioners only get paid when meetings are held and attended. Sikkenga continued that the Chair and Secretary are each paid \$60 per meeting whilst other member are paid \$50 per meeting.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- a. Solar Ordinance Review – discussion on continuing with ordinance as the State bill will be addressing. Dusseau queried the size of solar farm considered in the State bill. Sikkenga replied the State will review plans for approval on a case-by-case basis. Rodriguez informed residential solar farms are not included in the State bill. Sikkenga suggested the Commission should consult the Township’s Zoning Lawyer, Rachael Novak, to provide feedback as to the value of the Commission continuing with the solar ordinance draft. Rodriguez stated there may be gaps in the State bill that may need to be addressed by the Township. Zmolek inquired how the State’s jurisdiction will affect the Township’s Master Plan. Erb will ask Novak to provide feedback to the Planning Commission on moving forward with the Township ordinance.

IX. New Business

- a. Update on County ORV discussion – no Planning Commission members were able to attend.


X. Correspondence – none

XI. Announcements

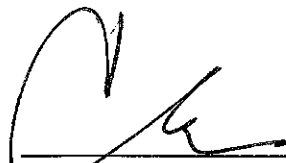
- a. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2024

XII. Adjournment

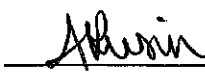
Motion was made by Rodriguez and supported by Dusseau to adjourn. Motion carried all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1838.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Sikkenga, Chairperson

2/7/2024  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carmen Rodriguez, Vice-chairperson

2/7/24  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Rusin, Secretary

2/7/2024  
Date