

Porter Township  
Planning Commission  
August Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 7, 2019

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**Roll Call:** 7:00

**Members Present:** Doug Noble, Jr., John Miller, Andrew Nesbitt, Dennis Owen, Steve Cornish, Tim Seppala, Tonya Blanchard, Heather Smith

**Members Not Present:** David Kindt

**Zoning Administrator:** Rich McGrew, present

**Approval of Minutes:** Tim Seppala motions to approve the June 26 regular meeting minutes, Dennis Owen seconds and June 26 regular meeting minutes are approved as written.

**Additions to Agenda** – None.

**Correspondence-** None.

**Board Liaison Report** – Per Andrew Nesbitt, the Board is in favor of an ORV ordinance.

**Citizens Comments:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Old Business:** ORV ordinance.

Discussion on if golf carts should be specifically listed in the ordinance, and definition of an ORV. Reviewed a Michigan ordinance that does not allow golf carts on roads with over 35 mph speed limit. Per discussion and research with other townships, this is the reason the specific wording is kept out of their ordinances. The Planning Commission wants to leave this up to Harold Schuitmaker, attorney, and/or officer discretion. The Planning Commission finds that several of the ordinances we have reviewed are very similar, and want to use Paw Paw Township ordinance as a template for changes.

Discussion on safety issues ORVs can cause on the roads in our township – narrow roads, overgrown brush on side of roads, curves, hills, etc. Recommended changes to Paw Paw Township's ORV ordinance are as follows:

- add SMV (slow moving vehicle) signs,
- add rear facing mirror,
- add 6.5 ft tall from ground, high visibility/reflective flag
- add drivers of ORVs to have a valid driver's license
- remove the Person under 18 requiring direct supervision of parent or legal guardian.

Discussion on if there should be a time or distance limit on specific roads (ex. With CR designations, and M-40 state highway).

Motion to request Harold Schuitmaker, attorney, update Paw Paw Township's ORV ordinance with our specific township wording, adding our recommended changes, and asking for any recommendation or suggestion on our concern areas, made by Dennis Owen, seconded by Steve Cornish. Motion approved.

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**Zoning Admin Report** – Rich McGrew, Zoning Administrator, has had many complaints about the semi truck parked at a home on CR 652. The truck has loud pipes and uses a jake brake at all hours. The neighbors have reached out to county and state police, township, road commission, and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) seeking assistance, and have not had any success. Our township does not have a specific noise or other ordinance that would regulate this truck driver's actions. Rich will be contacting Harold Schuitmaker, attorney, to see if there is anything that can or should be done.

**Adjournment-** Dennis Owen motions, Tonya Blanchard seconds, meeting adjourned at 8:23.

**Next meeting:** September 4, 2019

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