

Porter Township
Planning Commission
April Regular Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2022

Start Time: 7:05

Members Present: Doug Noble, Jr., John Miller, Andrew Nesbitt, Tim Seppala, Tonya Willis, Bob Angle, Heather Smith

Members Not Present: Steve Cornish

Zoning Administrator: Rich McGrew, not present.

Approval of Agenda: Bob Angle motions to approve the April Agenda, Tim Seppala seconds, agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes: Heather Smith motions to approve the March meeting minutes, Andy Nesbitt seconds. March regular meeting minutes are approved as written.

Correspondence: One item received from Village of Lawton, notice of working on an updated Master Plan.

Citizens Comments: Once citizen present, was looking for input/answers from the Township Board, left before Planning Commission Meeting called to order, he will attend next week's Township Board Meeting.

ZBOA report: Per Robert Angle, there has not been a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting in several months. He and Andy Nesbitt discussed the process of how and when meetings will happen.

Board Liaison Report: Per Andrew Nesbitt, there were a few citizens comments regarding the Short-Term Rental Ordinance at last month's Township Board Meeting. One comment led to general discussion on the 7-day rental – one renter per any 7-day period, not a minimum 7-day rental period. There may be a need for change or clarification of that wording. There was also a citizen comment that was very supportive of the Short-Term Rental Ordinance and thankful to the Township for looking into the matter and being pro-active.

Zoning Admin Report – Rich McGrew, Zoning Administrator, not present.

New Business: David Kindt, Planning Commission Secretary, has resigned his position. Motion made by Tim Seppala to make Heather Smith the Secretary. Motion second by Bob Angle. Motion passed. We will be getting a new member to replace David Kindt.

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Old Business: Large Solar Energy System Ordinance. Planning Commission gave a final review discussed the changes made at the last meeting. Motion made by John Miller to send the draft copy to Harold Schuitmaker, Township Attorney, for his review and consideration, noting the following line items that may need further legal assistance or review:

(R) (a) Tree requirement. Planning Commission would like to see requirement remain, but wording is open ended and broad, would like legal review.

(O) Decommissioning surety bond – would like legal input or update to add something for a Cost of Living or inflation adjustment periodically to make sure the amount is enough to cover when/if decommissioning is needed.

(Z) Annual Fee – Amount to be set by Township Board, legal review of wording requested from attorney.

Motion seconded by Tim Seppala. Motion passed.

Adjournment- John Miller motions to adjourn meeting, Bob Angle seconds, meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next meeting: May 4, 2022 at 7 pm.
