

Porter Township
Planning Commission
May Regular Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2022

Start Time: 7:00 pm

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

Members Not Present: John Miller

Zoning Administrator: Rich McGrew, present

Approval of Agenda: Motion to accept agenda as written made by Heather Smith. Tim Seppala seconds and agenda approved as written.

Approval of Minutes: Andy Nesbitt motions to approve the April Regular meeting minutes, Bob Angle seconds and April regular meeting minutes are approved as written.

Correspondence: Brochure from Michigan Township Association for Intro to Planning & Zoning Workshop. Please take brochure if you are interested in attending.

Citizens Comments:

- A. Heather Shannon, 77778 CR 652 wanted general information regarding the property behind (west) of her property. There has been logging activity, and rumored to be selling lots. There is only 66 ft of road frontage, otherwise land locked. Andy Nesbitt indicated that property can only be split a certain number of times without major work and agreements between the property owner and the township. If it comes to that, anyone within 300 feet of the property will be notified and there will be a public hearing. The current property owner is allowed to log the property as they see fit. Heather also had concerns about the culvert under CR 652 near the Huzzy Lake Public Access, the road is crumbling and unsafe. Doug Noble suggested she contact the Van Buren County Road Commission with that concern.
- B. John Jones – owns licensed cannabis facility on 88th wanted to ask questions and discuss marijuana provisioning center. His main concern was why the township requires the purchase of a medical marijuana provisioning license before/in addition to the purchase of an adult use marijuana provisioning license. He doesn't believe medical is sustainable, and is not interested in purchasing that license, only adult use license. Discussion of the intent to help limit the number of provisioning centers in the township.

Zoning Admin Report Per Rich McGrew, Zoning Administrator, had 9 building permits this past month. A lot of sheds/garages/pole barns. There will be several building permits coming up for Ridgeway Drive, and that subdivision will be full or almost full.

Porter Township
Planning Commission
May Regular Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2022

Board Liaison Report: Per Andrew Nesbitt, the township has had complaints on the blight in Frosty Acres. The Blight Inspector Jason Pompey is looking into costs for the township to supply dumpsters if area residents agree to do a clean up. No replacement for Mr. Kindt on Planning Commission yet.

ZBOA report: Per Robert Angle, no meetings have been scheduled yet.

Old Business: Future Solar Panel Ordinance – The Township Board will table the approval of Solar Farm Ordinance in order for Planning Commission members to attend the upcoming Michigan Township Association webinar or in person seminar on Solar Farms. This will give the Planning Commission an opportunity to review topics and update ordinance if needed before Board votes on ordinance. Planning Commission discussed and is interested in attending webinar on May 12 6:30 – 8:00 at Porter Township Hall. This date and time will be a Planning Commission professional development and work session only. It will not be a meeting, there will be no agenda, citizens comments, or ordinance decisions made at that time. Potential ordinance changes brought about by this work session will be discussed and reviewed at the next posted Planning Commission meeting. The public is welcome to join the Planning Commission to watch the webinar.

New Business: None.

Adjournment- Andy Nesbitt motions, Tim Seppala seconds, meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next meeting: June 1, 2022 at 7 pm.
