

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

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PENINSULA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

April 17, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: 7:00 p.m. by Shipman

2. Pledge

3. Roll Call: Present: Shanafelt, Hall, Alexander, Shipman, Couture, Dloski; Absent: Hornberger; Also present: Jenn Cram, director of planning, and Beth Chan, recording secretary

4. Approve Agenda:

Moved by Alexander to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Shanafelt
approved by consensus

5. Brief Citizen Comments (For Non-Agenda Items Only):

Nancy R. Heller, 3091 Blue Water Road: suggested that the website is not utilized for answers to questions and information as much as it should be. Often there are items discussed that can often be found on the township website.

6. Conflict of Interest: None

7. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Planning Commission Special Meeting March 6, 2023
Moved by Couture to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Dloski
approved by consensus

8. Reports and Updates:

a. Training Opportunities and Preferences

Cram: asked the planning commission members if anyone had taken the Citizen Planner Course offered by Michigan State University. Dloski was the only member that had taken the course several years ago. Presented the online option of the MSU Citizen Planner Course for fifteen hours as an option, as well as a learning opportunity presented by the township's legal counsel or by consulting firm Beckett and Raeder.

Discussion of costs and options

Dloski: the MSU course is broad in scope and suggested training by legal counsel may be beneficial.

Discussion of subject matter for the training: zeroing in on Special Use Permits and Zoning Ordinance

Shanafelt: a deeper understanding of the zoning ordinance would be beneficial and focusing on pertinent topics

Hall: favored in-person training and keeping planning commission priorities in mind for the topics of training. For example, what is the expectation of the zoning ordinance for an applicant at a meeting?

Couture: suggested ongoing training.

Cram: training could occur once in each term and new members should be onboarded; will investigate in-person training and topics.

Discussion of the planning commission process and timelines to bring new applications before the planning commission

Hall: would like to see updates covered during planning commission meetings; an example would be the 81, how did the recent litigation turn out? Looking for information and feedback for planning commission decisions.

Discussion

9. Public Comments: None

10. Other Matters or Comments by Planning Commission Members:

Cram: Looking at Bowers Harbor Boatworks for potential discussion in May.

11. Adjournment: 7:45 p.m.

Moved by Dloski to adjourn, seconded by Hall

approved by consensus