

Packet
December 16, 2024,
Township Board 6:00 p.m.
Special Meeting



PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

MEMO

To: Township Board
From: Jenn Cram, AICP, Director of Planning and Zoning
Date: December 11, 2024
Re: Planning Commission Vacancy

We currently have one vacancy on the planning commission. We have received four letters/emails of interest attached after this memorandum for reference.

Wes Cowan
Sheila Johnson
Todd Oosterhouse
Armen Shanafelt

We appreciate the board's time to interview the candidates at a special meeting on Monday, December 16, 2024, so that the vacancy can be filled prior to the next regularly scheduled planning commission meeting on January 7, 2025.

The planning commission meets on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 7 pm. Special meetings are held from time to time as needed.

Staff will be present to answer any questions the board or candidates may have about this commitment during the special meeting.

November 24, 2024

Ms. Becky Chown
Clerk
Peninsula Township
13235 Center Road
Traverse City, MI 49686

Dear Ms. Chown:

Please consider this letter my formal application for the vacancy on the Peninsula Township Planning Committee.

My wife and I moved permanently to Peninsula Township in January 2020; before our move we had been vacationers here for nearly 30 years. When we moved to the township, I determined to find out more about our local government. I began attending various township meetings, and when a committee was formed to study the impact of a change from General Law to Charter form of government, I volunteered. As you know, the Maner-Costerian report was the result of this committee.

Later, when a vacancy occurred on the Zoning Board of Appeals, I volunteered again and have been a member of this committee since May 2024.

These experiences have provided an entrée into the challenges our township faces in the next few years. Our population is increasing and getting older and wealthier. We should expect to see an increase in Special Use Permits, and applications for new construction. Our population will almost certainly expect more township services.

Our Zoning Ordinances will continue to be scrutinized by developers; some may need to be updated or reevaluated. Some will undoubtedly question the recently passed Master Plan – our roadmap for the future.

Change is inevitable. I believe it is the responsibility of the Planning Commission to understand and manage change for the benefit of all Township residents. I believe my experiences with the Charter Committee and the Zoning Board of Appeals has provided me with a good groundwork to be a member of the team responsible for preparing for change.

I have attached a brief resume to this letter outlining pertinent work experience. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

C. Wesley Cowan
2849 Shorewood Dr.

Curriculum Vitae

C. Wesley Cowan
2849 Shorewood Dr.
Traverse City, MI. 49686
wescowan@gmail.com
Cell: 513-378-3347

Education:

The University of Kentucky
B.A. 1974 (Anthropology)
M.A. 1977 (Anthropology)

The University of Michigan
Ph.D. 1983 (Anthropology)

Work Experience:

1974-1977 - The Kentucky Heritage Council (Office of Historic Preservation)

1980-1983 -The Ohio State University (Instructor of Anthropology)

1984-1995 -Curator of Archaeology, The Cincinnati Museum Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

1995-2019 – Founder and owner, Cowan’s Auction’s Cincinnati, Ohio

2019-Present – Consultant, Vice Chair, Freeman’s | Hindman Auctions, Chicago, Illinois

Board Membership:

The School for Advance Research, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Advisory Committee, The New Mexico Museum’s Foundation, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Board of Governors, The Clements Library, The University of Michigan

Sheila Johnson
13700 Bluff Road
Sheilajohnson321@gmail.com
517 449 9960

November 13, 2024

LETTER OF INTEREST FOR PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

Becky Chown
Township Clerk
Peninsula Township
Traverse City, MI 49686

Dear Ms. Chown,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Planning Commission for Peninsula Township. I recently ran for Trustee and unfortunately was not elected. I am still very interested in serving our community and hope that you will consider me for the Planning Commission Vacancy.

I have been a resident of Peninsula Township since 2008. At first, I was a part time resident but finally in 2020, I was able to move here permanently. In 2023 I purchased a farm on Swaney Road, in hopes of helping keep the agricultural beauty of Old Mission alive. Peninsula Township is a unique and beautiful area that needs a Planning Commission that will make fair decisions while protecting its unique characteristics. I believe I am the perfect candidate to do this.

I currently work as a Controller for our family-owned HVAC Company. I have held this position since 2005. My work experience has taught me how to communicate clearly, make tough decisions, and to be flexible. I believe these are all attributes that would benefit the Planning Commission, as well.

I would love that chance to discuss the position further and how I feel my skills could benefit the Peninsula Township Planning Commission. Please contact me at (517)449-9960 or email sheilajohnson321@gmail.com to arrange a meeting. If you need a formal resume, please let me know and I would be happy to provide one. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to potentially contributing to the success of our Township.

Sincerely,



Sheila Johnson

Becky Chown

To: Becky Chown
Subject: RE: planning commission

From: Oosterhouse, Todd <todd@bonobowinery.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 2:32 PM

To: Becky Chown <clerk@peninsulatownship.com>

Subject: planning commission

I would like to be on the planning commission. Having been a permanent resident on Old Mission Peninsula for the last 14 years I have seen it change in many directions. My family moved to this peninsula in 1976. I live in my childhood home and have seen the peninsula grow. From my experience of growing up and working the cherry orchards to now a business owner, having a winery and farming a vineyard would be of benefit to the community.

I previously was on the planning commission for approximately 1 year. The dealings with residents and the issues that we have before us are of great concern to me and what my children will grow up with and be able to enjoy. Preserving the farmland and lake shore remain a concern for all.

We have a task as representatives of the community to ensure that all voices are heard and the community is understood and respected.

I am a full time resident of Old Mission Peninsula year round.

Thanks for your consideration.

Enjoy the day!

Todd Oosterhouse
Owner/General Manager
231-383-5118 cell
bonobowinery.com

Becky Chown

From: Armen Shanafelt <abshanafelt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Becky Chown
Cc: Jennifer Cram
Subject: PC opening

Hello Becky,

I would like to submit my candidacy for the opening on the Planning Commission. I am a qualified elector of Peninsula Township.

I have served on the Planning Commission (PC) for the past 2 years, having been appointed to that role as the liaison of the Peninsula Township board (on which I have served as Trustee the past 2.5 years). This has given me the opportunity to understand and synthesize the different perspectives of these two bodies, while adhering to the specific goals and responsibilities of each.

In my capacity as a member of the Planning Commission, along with active participation in other PC responsibilities, I participated in the building height subcommittee, was directly involved in the passage of Amendment 201, and moving the Master Plan from the PC to the Township Board for ultimate approval.

I highlight these items as they have helped define my interest in a continued role as a member of the PC: ensure that we continue to modernize our zoning ordinances to meet the needs of our evolving populace, and ensure that we apply our zoning ordinances in a fair manner to all of our residents and property owners.

In addition to my service on government boards and committees, I have over a decade of experience serving on the boards of public and private companies, as well as academic advisory groups. I bring the translational components of this experience to the boards and committees on which I serve.

I would be honored to continue serving as a member of the Planning Commission.

Respectfully,

Armen

Armen Shanafelt
7402 E Shore Rd
abshanafelt@gmail.com