

Watson Township Planning Commission

October 23, 2013

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order-

Chairperson David Carter called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll call and recognition of visitors-

Present: David Carter, Bruce Bos, Chuck Andrysiak, Michelle Harris, Bev McKinnon, Troy Baker

Absent: Barb Wroblewski

Visitors- Karen Fifelski

4. Approval of Minutes- motion made by Troy Baker to approve the Minutes with the grammatical adjustments. It was seconded by Bev McKinnon. All approved.

5. Public comments or communications concerning items not on Agenda- none

6. Approval of Agenda- motion made by Bruce Bos; seconded by Chuck Andrysiak.

7. Old Business-

- a. School Section Lake- There was no merit found to Kathy Coffee's complaint about the fence and shed infringement on the adjoining property line because she was choosing not to include all her neighbors in her complaint. Therefore, we are not going to request a building inventory from PCI. We will not be making any changes to our Master Plan in regards to setbacks, at this time.
- b. Schnable Lake Campgrounds- PCI reviewed the area and confirmed that they are in compliance with the special use permit guidelines. Dave Carter looked at the fencing and questioned the compliance of it. After referring to the guidelines, it was concluded that they did not follow them in regards to the distance that the fence is

supposed to extend. Dave will follow up with Pam Brown, our township supervisor and PCI.

c. Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing-

- Karen Fifelski shared a synopsis of what was discussed at the latest Gun Plains Township meeting.
- Dave Carter informed us that the DEQ has developed new rules about fracking.
- Research conducted by the University of Michigan is expected to be completed in 2014.
- Extensive research is also being done at the state level.
- 80% of Allegan County's agricultural land is under lease.
- Dave gave us a copy of the Resolution to Oppose Hydraulic Fracturing that the Watson Township Board adopted. We were unaware of this resolution until today. Chuck Andrysiak will inform the township board that we would have preferred they engaged in more extensive discussion before they approved the resolution.
- The planning commission is waiting clarification from the Watson Township Board as to what direction they want us to take in regards to hydraulic fracturing components that are within our realm of regulation to regulate. We will be happy to assist the township board.
- Bev McKinnon distributed copies of an article from Valve magazine, fall 2013 in relation to recycling fracking waste water.

d. Conflict of interest- The Watson Township attorney was consulted concerning a possible conflict of interest for any township or planning commission board member, who may have signed a lease to a hydraulic fracturing company. There was a question about his or her restrictions in participating or voting on this matter. The communication from our attorney's office is that there is no conflict of interest as long as the said board member(s) have an open mind and are not working against Watson Township Board's direction. As officials of Watson Township we are responsible to look out for the public's interest.

8. Any other business/ongoing business- none

9. New business- none

10. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm by Michelle Harris. Support was given by Troy Baker.

Submitted by,

Michelle Harris  
Watson Township Planning Commission Secretary