

Watson Township Planning Commission

October 22, 2014

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order-

Chairperson David Carter called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll call and recognition of visitors-

Present: Barb Wroblewski, David Carter, Bruce Bos, Chuck Andrysiak, Michelle Harris, Troy Baker

Absent: Bev McKinnon

Visitors: none

4. Approval of Minutes- motion made by Troy Baker to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Chuck Andrysiak. All approved.

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

6. Approval of Agenda- There was a motion made to approve the agenda by Chuck Andrysiak; seconded by Barb Wroblewski.

7. Old Business-

- a. Tabled ordinances- Chuck Andrysiak reported that the Watson Township Board is planning to take action on the wood burning and the wind and solar proposed ordinances at their next meeting after they receive a clean copy from which to vote.
- b. Schnable lake- Dave Carter let us know that they already have a lake association. That group needs to gather signatures for the requested no wake lake designation and bring them to the Watson Township Board for consideration if they wish.
- c. Hydraulic Fracturing- Dave Carter suggested that we wait to see what the state of Michigan is going to come out with for regulations before we decide how we are going to proceed. The state is looking into standardizing drilling methods.

8. New Business-

- a. Updating our Master Plan- According to the law we are required to begin updating this document every five years. 2009 was the last time we did this. We will begin the updating at our next meeting.
- b. Pam Brown inquired of Dave Carter if Watson Township can protect ourselves from mega-farms. We would have to check into the Right to Farm Act to determine what our parameters are. Mark Sisson, our consultant, was conferred with on this matter. He suggested that we look at the standards of performance for the number of animals compared to land acreage to make our own determination on this topic.
- c. Bruce Bos attended the Allegan Township special meeting. He reported that it was good and informative. One thing he mentioned was that the Department of Agriculture has no enforcement authority. There are a significant number of guidelines and restrictions already in place for farming. The courts have the enforcement jurisdiction.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:18pm by Michelle Harris; support given by Chuck Andrysiak.

Submitted by,

Michelle Harris
Watson Township Planning Commission Secretary