

Watson Township Planning Commission

September 25, 2014

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, Barb Wroblewski

Absent: none

Visitors: none

4. Approval of Minutes- motion made by Troy Baker to approve the minutes with two spelling corrections. 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 Michelle Harris.

7. Old Business-

- a. Tabled Outdoor Furnace Ordinances- the Watson Township Board has reviewed the proposed Outdoor Furnace Ordinance. They sent it back to us with two changes. One was regarding the vegetation required for a furnace installed in a front yard. The Planning Commission had a lengthy discussion about this request. We felt strongly about a need for language that would address the front yard for safety and sight reasons. The PC came up with alternative language. We sent the ordinance back to the township board for final approval.
- b. Tabled Wind Energy and Solar Energy Ordinances- the Watson Township Board has also reviewed and returned this one to us with a few minor adjustments. There was some clarification language added to the order of tree size, decommissioning, signage, insurance and performance guarantee. We accommodated the changes without reservation.

- c. Dave Carter updated us in regards to hydraulic fracturing drilling news.
 - The Federal government has recently declared companies drilling on Indian land or public land, must disclose their chemical usage list. They are also researching ways to standardize methodology of drilling.
 - He also shared an article about a study conducted in Pennsylvania. That study found after 18 months of monitoring drill sites (before and after drilling) that there was no contamination of the water. The study sited drilling methods as a risk.
 - It was noted that Gun Plains Township is focusing on surface water contamination, noise and dust nuisances, and containment issues for first responders as possible areas they could focus on in an ordinance.
 - Orangeville is the only township in the immediate area in Allegan County that has adopted an ordinance addressing fracturing practices.
 - Dave Carter distributed an article titled 'NY Ruling on Local...' as another source to glean information from the actions or inactions of other states regarding the hydraulic fracturing topic.

8. New Business-

- a. Chuck Andrysiak and Michelle Harris gave a report from the Michigan Township Association mini seminar presented by Michael D. Homier that they attended in Kalamazoo.
- b. Schnable Lake- There's been a request to deem this lake as a 'no wake zone' lake. The planning commission does not have jurisdiction to make this decision. If the residents set up a lake association, then that body of people could make the requested designation.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:14pm by Bruce Bos; support given by Bev McKinnon.

Submitted by,

Michelle Harris
Watson Township Planning Commission Secretary