

APPROVED MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MECOSTA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION  
19729 11 MILE RD., BIG RAPIDS, MI 49307  
FEBRUARY 4, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Howard Bowersox called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE TO FLAG

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Pam Scarbrough, James Cain, Howard Bowersox, Mike Malcomnson, Linda Bechaz. Absent: Jessica Walsh and Aaron Pieri. Also, present: Incoming ZA Laura Bosworth acting as Recording Secretary, Current ZA Gladys Lenard, and members of the public.

4. APPROVAL AGENDA

Mike Malcomnson moved to approve the agenda. Second by James Cain. 5 yeas 0 nays. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Unapproved Minutes January 7, 2020

Commission discussed # 10 New Business not being part of the minutes and that meeting date changes from May 5, to May 7 and Aug 4 to Aug 6 meeting dates that had been approved of at the last meeting. It was the consensus of the Commission to add #10 New Business with #1. Change meeting dates due to elections May 5 & Aug 4 as in the Agenda. (Aaron Pieri had moved to approve the date changes. Second by Jessica Walsh.)

Linda Bechaz moved to approve the January 7, 2020 Minutes as amended. Seconded by Mike Malcomnson. 5 yeas 0 nays Motion Carried.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mahlon Brenneman of 7275 – 200<sup>th</sup> Ave. plans to apply for a permit for a special use to start a temporary sawmill. Due to the small size, he asked the Commission to consider changing the ordinance to match Aetna and Austin Townships, allowing more board feet. Howard stated that the Commission would take it into consideration and invited Mr. Brenneman to apply, and to attend all future meetings.

Paula Brinks of 7148 – 200<sup>th</sup> Ave. spoke in support of her neighbor Mr. Brenneman.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Committee Report: James reported that the Township Board had approved the changes, and they have been sent to the attorney.

2. Zoning Ordinance Book

Laura asked to remove this from the agenda until there is something to report. It was the consensus of the Commission to remove Zoning Ordinance Book from the agenda.

9. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION FOR DECISION

None

10. NEW BUSINESS

1. Recreation Committee

First Goal is to apply for several grants before April 1, 2020 deadlines, to install a Universal Design playscape in Richard H Evens Park, next to the Township Hall. A committee is needed to incorporate fundraising and grant writing. Volunteers were contacted to attend the meeting today.

2. Planning Commission Annual Report 2019

Mike Malcomson moved to approve the Annual Report 2019. Seconded by James Cain.  
5 yeas 0 nays

11. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

None

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Paula Brinks 7148 – 200<sup>th</sup> Ave. asked for clarification on how Mr. Brenneman could start his sawmill with the current 1,000 board feet per day. Howard said to apply and explained that an application does not guarantee a change in the ordinance.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Linda Bechaz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mike Malcomson.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Submitted by

Laura Bosworth

Acting Recording Secretary

James Cain moved to approve the minutes of February 4, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Aaron Pieri. 4 yeas 0 nays, motion carried.

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Howard Bowersox, Chairman  
Mecosta Township Planning Commission

March 4, 2020  
Date Approved