

SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

July 23, 2012

The Saugatuck Township Planning Commission met on July 23, 2012, at the township hall on Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck, Michigan 49453.

Present: Conklin, Hanson, Milauckas, Rausch, Rowe and Welk

Absent: Harrison

Also present: Members of the general public

At 7:00 P. M. Vice Chair Rowe called the meeting to order and introduced Edward Welk, the newest member of the Planning Commission, taking the place of Larry Edris whose term has expired.

Rowe struck item #7, Private Roads, from the agenda because Planner Sisson is unable to be here.

Minutes of June 25 were approved as amended (Hanson/Rausch) as follows: Page 1, under public comment, Martha Tucker is corrected to read Marcia Tucker; and in the middle of the long paragraph, the sentence beginning "Milauckas added that the . . . should read "Douglas Zoning Administrator offered the idea that the city zoning administrators review the Plan . . ."

Public Comment: Hanson asked Marcia Tucker if she had heard back from the Road Commission regarding her request for a sign at Weed's Creek curve, and she replied that she had not, but would wait another week or two.

Rowe brought up the continued discussion on the Marathon sign issue: however, both Zoning Administrator Ellingsen and Planner Sisson are on vacation. Milauckas expressed his concern as to whether or not the Sign Ordinance could handle the issues of signs in disrepair; that is Sec. 40-634, which addresses the obligation of the sign owner, conditions and readability of the signs. He said he has two general questions about the Sign Ordinance, since Z. A. Ellingsen did not try to enforce it in the instance of the Marathon sign: (1) Why doesn't the Sign Ordinance give us the ability to confront the owner whose sign is in disrepair to require him to "repair or remove it?" If we couldn't use it in the Marathon sign situation, could we use it in any situation? (2) Under "Nonconforming Signs" subsection (k) (2) and (3), on Page 40-110.1 of the Zoning Ordinance, Milauckas said some of the provisions don't seem to make sense. He added he thought it would be good to have Planner Sisson review these to see if some of them need to be reworked. Reference was also made to Secs. 40-1011 and 40-1014 which deal with the nonconforming status of structures and the discontinuance thereof.

There was some discussion of whether this issue was a priority now. Conklin said she understood from Atty Bultje's e-mail that the Township Board would have to decide if it is worth going to court to have what's left of the Marathon sign removed (see attached).

Milauckas said it is up to the Planning Commission, though, to review the Ordinance and see if it needs to be amended to be effective. Consensus was to ask Sisson to attend a meeting to review this.

Election of Officers: Milauckas nominated Rowe to be Chair, seconded by Rausch. Rowe asked that his name be removed, and Milauckas withdrew his motion. Rowe nominated Conklin to be Chair, seconded by Rausch, which carried unanimously. With that, Conklin assumed the Chair and nominated Rowe to be Vice Chair, seconded by Welk, which carried unanimously. Rowe nominated Rausch to be Secretary, seconded by Hanson, which carried unanimously. Conklin will be added to the delegation from the Township to the Joint Planning Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M. The next meeting is August 27 at 7:00 P.M.

Betty A. White, Recording Secretary

Sandra Rausch, Secretary

MOTIONS

1. Motion by Hanson/Rausch to approve amended minutes of June 25.
2. Motion by Milauckas/Rausch to nominate Rowe as Chair, withdrawn.
3. Motion by Rowe/Rausch to nominate Conklin as Chair, carried.
4. Motion by Conklin/Welk to nominate Rowe as Vice Chair, carried.
5. Motion by Rowe/Hanson to nominate Rausch as Secretary, carried.

OFFICERS

CHAIR: CONKLIN; VICE CHAIR: ROWE; SECRETARY: RAUSCH