

**WATSON TOWNSHIP MICHIGAN
1895 118th Ave. Allegan, MI 49010**

**PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING DATE: October 26, 2022**

FINAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00pm @ Watson Township Hall

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited

ROLL CALL: Present: Bruce Bos; John Caras; Shawn Caulder; Nick Evans; Bev McKinnon; Owen Ramey; Jay Roberts-Eveland : Quorum:

VISITORS: Stephanie Caulder

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: w/addition to New Business: A-1 Agricultural Conservation District

MOTION: Shawn Caulder

SECOND: Jay Roberts-Eveland

APPROVED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Shawn Caulder

SECOND: Bev McKinnon

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion about the Chapter #5 of the Master Plan and township Ordinances in regards to language in the land division sections that the PC has been requested by the township board to review. Jason Derry, PCI explained the history and gave board members a packet of information to review, with ordinance comparisons from surrounding communities.

Shawn Caulder clarified that the Master Plan review would not have to be postponed because ordinance changes can be done later.

Bruce Bos reminded the board of a tight timeline to get the Parks Plan, and Master Plan review done and recommended that we address this early next year.

Motion: To table discussion about the A-1 District ordinance until the Master Plan & Parks Plan were complete.

Motion: Shawn Caulder

Second: Bev McKinnon

Vote: Passed unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

a) Review and finalized a Parks Plan for Watson Township

Jason Derry, PCI presented the status of the Parks Plan and procedures to move forward. Discussion surrounded the timeline to be approved by the township board before the February 1, 2023 deadline to have it submitted for grant availability.

The Public Hearing will include an opportunity for residents to offer input before a final recommendation for approval is sent to the township board. Notice will be given and the Public Hearing will set for Dec. 7, 2022 at 7:00pm Watson Township Hall

Jason further explained that the Planning Commission

Bruce Bos asked for clarifying information about the process to make changes to a Parks Plan, if needed: Jason Derry explained that it is not necessary to wait five years when the required Master Plan review takes place.

Motion: To approve the Draft Parks Plan

Motion: Jay Roberts-Eveland

Second: John Caras

Vote: Passed unanimously

b) Continue the process of assessing the township's Master Plan for the required update.

A review of the draft began with Shawn Caulder identifying chapter five missing from the packet. This will be taken care of and all grammatical errors corrected before the township board meeting on November 3, 2022. Bruce Bos said there were 80+ changes made, and Shawn Caulder commended the Planning

Commission and PCI for the efforts of being timely in getting this work accomplished.

Motion: To accept the corrected draft Master Plan

Motion: Jay Roberts-Eveland

Second: John Caras

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Member Comments:

John Caras addressed the board about the new digital footprint of the township and asked board members about accessing their new email addresses. He explained the need to have secured systems within the township. John Caras will further the discussion with township board members about setting policy for digital record keeping.

John Caras informed the board about the status of potential support in receiving grant money to legally “cap” the old landfill (dump) and secure it to “shovel ready” for further park development. The old dump has been identified as a Brownfield and will hopefully qualify for remediation dollars. He also invited the Planning Commission to the ribbon cutting event on Saturday, Oct. 29th at 10:00am at the new 7 Generation Park.

Bruce Bos asked about the maintenance of the park:
opening/closing/monitoring/insurance/hours/etc.

Jason Derry explained that most communities establish a Parks Committee to manage parks.

John Caras will seek clarification and direction from the Township Board.

Motion to Adjourn: 7:55pm

Motion: Jay Roberts Eveland

Second: Shawn Caulder

Submitted by: Jay Roberts-Eveland- October 27, 2022