

Minutes

Monday, May 16, 2022

1. **Call to Order** - *Chair Ritter called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.*
2. **Roll Call**

Members Present: *Aaron Ritter, Chair; Namrata Carolan, Vice-Chair; Jack McLain, Secretary; Susan Smith; Annette Scoville*

Members Absent: *Doug Ingles-Excused; Andy Welden; Troy Reehl; Michael Clark*
3. **Approval of Minutes** - *Motion by McLain to approve the March 21, 2022 minutes. Second by Carolan. Approved unanimously.*
4. **Approval of Agenda** - *Motion by Carolan to approve the May 16, 2022 agenda with the addition of item “b” under “8. New Business” for a report on her attendance a workshop titled: “Introduction to Planning & Zoning”. Second by McLain. Approved unanimously.*
5. **Public Comment** - *No public comment.*
6. **Public Hearings** - *No public hearings scheduled.*
7. **Unfinished Business** - *No unfinished business listed.*
8. **New Business**
 - a. **Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program Applications**
 - i. **Adams Township - Schoenberger (Section 2 T6S R2W 26 acres m/l)**
Program Type: *Farmland Development Rights Agreement - Motion by Carolan to recommend approval of the application. Second by Smith. Approved unanimously.*
 - ii. **Adams Township - Schoenberger (Section 2 T6S R2W 33 acres m/l)**
Program Type: *Farmland Development Rights Agreement - Motion by Carolan to recommend approval of the application. Second by Smith. Approved unanimously.*
 - iii. **Adams Township - Schoenberger (Section 8 T6S R2W 53 acres m/l)**
Program Type: *Farmland Development Rights Agreement - Motion by Carolan to recommend approval of the application. Second by Scoville. Approved unanimously.*
 - b. **Introduction to Zoning & Planning**

Commissioner Carolan reported on the workshop titled “Introduction to Planning & Zoning” she attended as a representative of the Somerset Township Planning Commission on March 31, 2022 at the Firekeepers in Battle Creek. The 6 hour Workshop organized by the Michigan Township Association provided training on sources of township planning and zoning authority, the structure and function of the planning commission and

zoning board of appeals, and the role of the township board. In addition, it was discussed the “ins and outs” of master plans and zoning ordinances, along with key strategies for effective decision-making.

9. Any Other Business/On-going Business

- a. Continued discussion on update of Master Plan (Including Land Use Map) & discuss options for professional assistance - There was discussion on the process for updating the plan and the importance of being consistent with local municipality master plans. A motion was made by Commissioner Carolan to gather information on neighboring county master plans. The motion was second by Commissioner Scoville. The motion was approved unanimously. Planning Commission support staff will assist Commissioner Carolan in gathering the data from the various county websites, if available.*

10. Public Comment - No public comment

11. Communications

- a. Notice of Availability of the Jackson County Master Plan for Public Comment Letter - Received and placed on file.*

12. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by McLain. Second by Carolan. Approved unanimously to adjourn at 2:27 p.m.

Jack McLain, Secretary

Recorded by: Nicolas Wheeler, Equalization Director, County of Hillsdale