

HILLSDALE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes

Monday, November 16, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
33 McCollum Street, Hillsdale, MI 49242

1. Call to Order by: Brad Benzing at 1:07 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Brad Benzing, Namrata Carolan, Jack McLain, Jack Mosley, Troy Reehl, Aaron Ritter, Susan Smith

3. Approval of Minutes (10-19-2020)

Motion made by Namoo Carolan to approve minutes with correction of the spelling of Brad's name on item #1. Support by Jack Mosley.

Approved Unanimously

4. Approval of Agenda

Amend agenda to include 7b. Addition of information from CAA in regards to housing information for the Master Plan. Also, 9. Future of the Planning Commission.

Motion by Brad to approve agenda with the additional items, support by Namoo Carolan.

Approved Unanimously

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Public Hearings

No public hearings.

7. Unfinished Business

a. County Master Plan – Ongoing

- David Holcomb is to provide information on the fiber map.
- The building permit information has been received and Kim is working on getting that updated in the Plan.
- A review was received from Harmony Gmazel and will be sent to each member as it was not received in time to distribute prior to the meeting. Responses from the members will be requested.

b. Housing information from CAA - Namoo

- Namoo met with CAA regarding the housing information. Much housing data and information was presented. The report that was published by CAA can be reviewed.

Namoo indicated that the use of additional graphs would be a great addition. There are many factors that affect the housing numbers in many different areas such as age of home, age of homeowners, location, income, etc. Namoo mentioned a couple of additions to the housing section she feels would be important and those are the homeless and veteran populations.

8. New Business

a. Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program PA116

i. Amos & Miriam Eicher, 30 15 019 100 008 19 8 3, 82 Acres

- It was voted unanimously to postpone approval of the above referenced PA116 due to item #15, #16 not being complete. Brad will make a farm visit to obtain the missing information. We will revisit this item at the next meeting.

9. Any Other Business/On-going Business

a. Future of the Hillsdale County Planning Commission

- Brad commented about the future of the Planning Commission and that he feels that IF we do continue with the Planning Commission it is very important for the Board of Commissioners to support the Planning Commission, financially and otherwise.
- At this point, there is no budget for the Planning Commission in 2021.
- Other members indicated that they do feel the PC is valuable and of importance. Sue said that the County voice is important. It shows a level of professionalism as a County to have a Master Plan. It is hard for people to understand the value if they are not “at the table”.
- Everyone on this Board is a volunteer and everyone felt that their time was valuable and had a purpose where the PC and Master Plan were concerned.
- Troy mentioned the value of the Master Plan to people interested in moving to the community.
- Brad made a motion to take back to the Board of Commissioners that it was the desire to continue with the PC and having a support staff person available 1 day per week. Motion by Namoo to proceed with a recommendation to the BOC for 1) support staff person 1 day/week, 2) Per diem allowance for Board Members time/travel to attend bi-monthly meetings and, 3) minimum amount of financial support to advertise public hearings, etc. Supported by Troy.

Approved Unanimously

10. Public Comment

No public comment.

11. Communications

No communications.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Sue, supported by Namoo to adjourn meeting at 2:58 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, January 25, 2021 at 1 p.m.