

**ALMENA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARCH 5, 2012**

**Members present:** Ron Marvin, Brian Rumsey, Mark Roman, Marv Flick, Bill Van Tassel, Matt Moulds, and Nina Consolatti

**Members absent:** Steve Manning (unexcused)

- I CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Marvin.
- II APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – **Motion** by Marv Flick to approve the agenda as presented **second** by Mark Roman. **Motion approved 7-0.**
- III CORRECTIONS AND/OR APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6, 2012 PC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** – **MOTION: Motion** by Bill VanTassel to approve the minutes of January 6, 2012 as presented **second** by Brian Rumsey, **Motion approved 7-0.**
- IV PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS** – none

**V PUBLIC HEARING – Master Plan Amendments**

Tonight’s public hearing is to receive comments regarding the Master Plan amendments that the Planning Commission has been working on. Planner Milliken has provided the commission a summary of the changes that have been made. Discussion took place regarding the comments received from the County Planning Commission. A response was never received asking for clarification on a couple of the comments. Regarding comment #3 there is text in the Preservation section that cites state and other governmental funding, so it is the opinion of the commission that this is addressed. Regarding comment #4; Planner Milliken speculates that they were referring to text in chapter 8 regarding animal count and building height. Planner Milliken explained that the text in chapter 8 is taken directly from the Zoning Ordinance so this verbiage should not be changed in the Master Plan. No other comments have been received from any other municipalities/utilities. The reasons for the amendments include the required 5 year review and bringing the Master Plan into compliance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. No real significant changes were made to the visions or goals.

Public Comments: ZBA chair Kristen Garceau was in attendance and made a couple brief comments regarding grading/cutting in wetland areas and the numerous references to “sewers”. Overall she thinks that the Planning Commission did a good job with the document and commends them on their work.

**MOTION: Motion** by Bill Van Tassel to adopt the Master Plan by adopting the resolution as presented, **second** by Marv Flick.

**Roll Call Vote:** Marv Flick – yes, Mark Roman – yes, Matt Moulds – yes, Bill Van Tassel – yes, Brian Rumsey – yes, Nina Consolatti – yes, Ron Marvin – yes. **Motion approved 7-0.** The plan is approved.

Planner Milliken will create a resolution of endorsement for the Township Board to consider.

**VI UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

*Discussion of Utility Ordinance (sample from Oshtemo Township)* – At the previous meeting member Matt Moulds had distributed an ordinance that Oshtemo Township has drafted in response

to the recent utility construction that has been proposed in their township. It was stated that this is not a part of their zoning ordinance (dealing with land use) but rather a township ordinance. Planner Milliken agrees that this is not a zoning issue, though if the township board wanted to pursue the issue of a utility ordinance it would be perfectly acceptable for them to ask the Planning Commission for some assistance if they wished. After some discussion it was the decision of the chairman to table the issue until we see something more pertinent to Almena Township.

**VII NEW BUSINESS**

*Discussion of Possible Upcoming Projects* – Members brought ideas to the table for upcoming projects. Matt Moulds suggested that the commission have a conversation about the Almena Woods and its use, to educate the community, even if it is just a sign that shows the limits of the property, who can use it, for what uses, etc. He realizes that this is a Parks and Recreation issue but he would like to at least have a discussion. Also, he would like to discuss the groundwater contamination issues that the Township is facing on the east side of the Township. Chairman Marvin did inquire to the Township Board on this and it was their response to go ahead and do the research.

Bill Van Tassel wondered if a recycling program would be in the planning commission’s purview. It was not thought that it would be.

Brian Rumsey supports Matt’s idea of exploring the groundwater contamination issue.

**VII ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Motion** to adjourn by Brian Rumsey, **second** by Marv Flick, **Motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Jenny Parish  
Secretary  
Almena Township Planning Commission

Cc: PC (8) Attorney Kelly Page  
Twp. Board (7) Attorney Gary Stewart  
ZBA (5) Van Buren County Planning Commission  
Greg Milliken  
AGS