

ALMENA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2012

Members present: Ron Marvin, Brian Rumsey, Mark Roman, Mark Kruizenga, Bill Van Tassel, Matt Moulds, and Steve Manning; Professional Planner Christopher Khorey also present

Members absent: None

I CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Marvin.

Township Supervisor, Doug Stiles, introduced Carol Himes to the commission. She is the newest member and will take over the term being vacated by Bill Van Tassel

II APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Ron Marvin had one change for the wording of the agenda to change “Old Business” to “Unfinished Business”. Matt Moulds also had an addition for the agenda, to add “Township Board Liaison Report” as a permanent item (V).

Motion by Brian Rumsey to approve the agenda as amended **second** by Bill Van Tassel. **Motion approved 7-0.**

III CORRECTIONS AND/OR APPROVAL OF JUNE 4, 2012 PC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – **MOTION: Motion** by Mark Roman to approve the minutes of June 4, 2012 as presented **second** by Steve Manning, **Motion approved 6-0** (Bill Van Tassel abstained for absence).

IV PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS – none

V TOWNSHIP BOARD LIASION REPORT – Mark Roman reported that the Township is making changes to the building and zoning department. We are now sharing services with Texas Township and separating from the contract with AGS. This change takes place within the next week or so. The commission members suggested that we ask Mr. Henderson to attend the next PC meeting so that they may meet him.

VI UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Update on Almena Woods: Bill Van Tassel – Bill reported on issues that have recently been discussed regarding the Almena Woods, it’s use, signage, etc. According to the insurance company hunting cannot be prohibited on public land as long as all hunting and separation laws are followed. They also do not recommend any signs be placed and this seems to be for liability reasons. Also the property will be surveyed by the end of November. Other discussion took place regarding the property and it was suggested that perhaps more permanent markers be placed rather than survey stakes to avoid having to redo the survey at a later date. It was the consensus of the commission that none of those issues are planning issues, but Township Board and that Mark Roman would take that recommendation to them. It was decided that when the survey is finished the survey map should be added to the Master Plan. This closes the Almena Woods issue.

Update on Proposed Changes to Wireless Ordinance – Planner Christopher Khorey went over the changes that have been made, due to changes in the state law. The changes will bring our ordinance into compliance. Some discussion took place regarding the changes including how the contract and services will change due to the fee cap that has been enacted. A clean final draft was requested and Christopher will get that out as soon as possible. This matter is tabled and will be discussed at the next meeting and a public hearing will be scheduled.

VII NEW BUSINESS

Matt Meersman – Van Buren Conservation District: Wetlands and the Master Plan – Mr. Meersman and his associate, Marcy Colclough from the SWMPC addressed the commission about a project that they are working on. They are visiting all of the Townships and addressing their zoning and planning documents regarding wetlands. They are coming to Alma first and had much praise to give the Township on the documents. Wetlands are well covered in a comprehensive way and they plan to use our documents as an example for other communities. Alma Township is a very important area as there are more wetlands here than anywhere else in the county and the headwaters of the Paw Paw River are located here. Some discussion took place and they left some information on conservation programs for the public. The commission thanked them and stated that Alma Township is proud to be used as an example.

Waverly Township Master Plan Draft – We have received a copy of Waverly Township’s Master Plan rewrite. The members have reviewed it and some discussion took place. It was the consensus of the commission to send a letter regarding the master plan addressing concern of commercial growth along M-40 and commenting on the maps and data formatting. Mark Roman will draft this letter and send it out to them.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion to adjourn by Mark Roman, **second** by Bill VanTassel, **Motion passed**. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Jenny Parish
Secretary
Alma Township Planning Commission

Cc: PC (8) Attorney Kelly Page
Twp. Board (7) Attorney Gary Stewart
ZBA (5)
Christopher Khorey