

Minutes

Monday, January 23, 2023

1. **Call to Order** - *Vice-Chair Carolan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.*
2. **Roll Call**

Members Present: *Namrata Carolan, Vice-Chair; Jack McLain, Secretary; Susan Smith; Michael Clark; Steve Lanius*
Members Absent: *Annette Scoville-Excused; Troy Reehl-Excused*
3. **Public Comment** - *Jim Shiffler from the Little Long Lake Indiana-Michigan Watershed Association inquired as to what the County Planning Commission's role is and also addressed the Commission on concerns of outside entities plans for land use practices that will affect the watershed in the Camden Township area.*
4. **Correspondences** - *None*
5. **Approval of Minutes** - *Motion by Clark to approve the November 21, 2022 minutes. Second by McLain. Approved unanimously.*
6. **Approval of Agenda** - *Motion by McLain to remove item 9.a. from the agenda and place the Election of Officers on the March agenda to allow for full participation. Second by Clark. Approved unanimously. Motion by Carolan to replace item 9.a. with a discussion on the starting time of future Planning Commission meetings. Second by Clark. Approved unanimously. Motion by McLain to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Smith. Approved unanimously.*
7. **Public Hearings** - *No public hearings scheduled.*
8. **Unfinished Business** - *No unfinished business listed.*
9. **New Business**
 - a. ~~Election of Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary~~
Meeting Times - There was some discussion on changing the starting time of future Planning Commission meetings including moving to the evening. Motion by McLain to place this on the March agenda under Unfinished Business. Second by Smith. Approved unanimously.
 - b. *Review/Amend Rules of Procedure and By-Laws - There was discussion on various sections and how they correlate to the Planning Commission Ordinance. Motion by McLain to amend Section 5.3 to correct two (2) subsection references including changing 3.5 to 3.6 and changing 3.8 to 3.9 and to update the date of adoption to January 23, 2023. Second by Clark. Approved unanimously.*
 - c. **Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program Applications**
 - i. **Camden Township - Eicher (Section 26 T8S R4W 60 acres m/l)**
Program Type: Farmland Development Rights Agreement - *There was discussion on this application including an apparent error in the application and deed where the Town/Range references "Town 6*

South, Range 4 West” which would place the property in Allen Township and not Camden Township as indicated throughout the application. Smith also noted that question 19 on the application indicating the number of years the applicant is applying for was left blank. Motion by Carolan to not recommend approval of this application until the corrections are made both on the deed and application. Second by McLain. Approved unanimously.

- ii. Woodbridge Township - Lengacher (Section 5 T8S R3W 38.83 acres m/l) Program Type: Farmland Development Rights Agreement - Motion by Smith to recommend approval of the application. Second by Clark. Approved unanimously.*

10. Any Other Business/On-going Business

- a. Continued discussion on update of Master Plan - Jacob Hurt, Executive Director for Region 2 Planning Commission (R2PC) was in attendance to discuss services that R2PC could provide to the Hillsdale County Planning Commission (HCPC). Mr. Hurt provided a handout (placed on file) covering the History & Background of R2PC that is made up of local units of government in the Counties of Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee. Mr. Hurt mentioned the R2PC currently provides support staff to both the Jackson County and Lenawee County Planning Commissions that is partly paid for from the dues paid by each County to R2PC. Mr. Hurt mentioned the current dues for Hillsdale County to become a member of R2PC would be \$12,351/annually and is based on a per capita of \$0.27 and determined most recently from the 2020 Census. The HCPC will consider requesting the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners agree to become a member of R2PC during the 2024 budget process. There was discussion on whether services could be provided to the HCPC without being a member of R2PC. Mr. Hurt will supply an estimate to the HCPC prior to the March meeting of the HCPC for assistance by R2PC in updating the County’s Master Plan. It was the consensus to have Mr. Hurt attend the May meeting to discuss further after review by the HCPC at the March meeting.*

11. Public Comment - *Therese Shiffler from the Little Long Lake Indiana-Michigan Watershed Association thanked the HCPC for the review and rejection of the PA116 application and encouraged the HCPC to update the County’s Master Plan. Jim Shiffler thanked the HCPC and also encouraged them to update the County’s Master Plan and to seek the assistance of land use specialists. Mr. Shiffler offered to present the data they have researched and compiled at a future planning commission meeting or at a Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners meeting.*

12. Adjournment - *Motion to adjourn by McLain. Second by Clark. Approved unanimously to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.*

Jack McLain, Secretary

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