

Van Buren County Planning Commission
October 25, 2006
219 Paw Paw St. Paw Paw

Minutes

Call to Order: 6:35 pm

Members in attendance: Jeff Radtke, Jerry Campbell, Pam Stermer, Scott Cedarquist, Kurt Doroh, Connie Selles, Jim Ray, Ted Thar

Absent: Celinda Gilmore, Dan Gehl

Public present: Dave Foerster, Waverly Twp. Planning Commission Member

Agenda: Approved on a Ray, Doroh motion.

Minutes of September 27, 2006: Approved on a Doroh, Campbell motion.

Public Comment: Rather Long discussion regarding VBCPC's role in providing guidance to the local PC's. Foerster asked the VBCPC if we knew of any Model Ordinances (Wetland, Farmland Preservation, etc.), which we could recommend to the Local PC's. It is his contention that we could save the Local PC's time and effort by recommending ordinances, which did a good job of following the County Comprehensive Plan. Radtke felt that the CCP, which was just updated, handles the overall goal of the County as the VBCPC sees it. The VBCPC should rather be a sounding board to the Local PC's. This allows for the Municipality to look at their unique situations and plan accordingly with guidance from the VBCPC. Cedarquist said the at Comprehensive Plan serves as a "Minimum Standard" or "Executive Summary" which the Locals should look to, to see if they included the items we list. Other comments suggested we might add some revisions to include verbiage towards Wetlands and other Protected Areas. Also, we can possibly create a section on the County Website to include Ordinances which we feel are possible "Model" ordinances without suggesting them to anyone in particular.

Reports: *County Commissioner* – No new report.

Southwestern Michigan Commission (SWMC) Representative – Radtke reported gone to meeting on the wrong night, will report next month. However, did indicate a "Call for Work" for any new projects being done this year. Any Municipality doing a project can get additional points with the State and Fed through this process. There is approximately 10 weeks remaining for approval this year.

Unfinished Business:

Smart Growth Scorecards – Selles said she spoke to Marcy Colclough from SWMC and there may be some interest from them to assist the VBCPC in creating some kind of Smart Growth Scorecards to be used locally and regionally. She will report further at next meeting.

Van Buren County Planning Comprehensive Plan- Ted Thar reported that nothing was in minutes of Board of Commissioners that indicated they had adopted (formally) the Comprehensive Plan. Will take it to Board for adoption, and report at next meeting.

Covert Twp. Follow-up: Ted Thar said he spoke to Covert Supervisor and relayed to VBCPC that Covert Twp. adopted a new zoning map that included area of critical dune into the ESO. Also after meeting, Thar contacted Covert again to ask about Non-Contiguous being removed from 16.01 third paragraph, which it was before being adopted. No other changes were made prior to Ordinance being adopted.

New Business: South Haven Township Zoning Amendment, Agree with South Haven PC on decision to allow proposed amendments on Calvin property. Approved on a Selles, Doroh motion. Thar is to contact Ryan Cervetius to ask the status of South Haven Twp. Master Plan.

Meeting Adjourned 8:40 PM.