

Van Buren County Planning Commission
October 27, 2010
219 Paw Paw Street Paw Paw, MI. 49079
Minutes

Call to Order: 6:32 pm

Members in Attendance: Kurt Doroh, Richard Corwin, Jeff Radtke, Dick Godfrey, Pam Stermer, Tony Hemenway, Scott Cedarquist, Connie Selles, Celinda Gilmore, Ted Thar

Absent: none

Public Present: Dave Foerster, Roger Flammang, Frank & Jeannine Grubisich, Geoff Cripe, Marcy Colclough, Matt Meersman

Agenda: Cedarquist/Doroh, Motion to approve agenda after addition to New Business & minutes date.– unanimous vote

Minutes August 27, 2010: Stermer/Corwin, Motion to approve agenda – unanimous vote

Public Comment: Roger Flammang addressed the board regarding the Columbia Twp. Zoning Ordinance Amendment.

Reports:

County Commissioner – Commissioner Godfrey reported that the County does not have a budget shortfall of approximately \$450K

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) – Radtke Reported

Local Visits – Selles visited Almena, Doroh visited City of Bangor

Unfinished Business:

Discussion regarding County Land Use Planning – Thar reported status, also passed around amended grant application sheet and discussion arose. Colclough, Meersman, and Cripe discussed how work done on the Paw Paw /Black River watershed projects can be utilized in the County Landuse planning process.

New Business:

Antwerp Township Zoning Ordinance rewrite – Motion by Selles/Doroh, unanimous vote, to concur with the Antwerp Township PC's recommendation to their Board to adopt the rewritten Zoning Ordinance. Also, recognize that Antwerp Twp.'s overlay district (environmental) was consistent with recommendations of the Paw Paw River Watershed plan. Cedarquist added that the section on Outdoor wood furnaces may have been too stringent and hard to police. Corwin pointed out a potential typo in the section regarding household pets (being chained outside)

Columbia Township Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Motion by Cedarquist/Stermer, unanimous vote to not concur with the Zoning Ordinance Amendments. There was not evidence for basis to make the changes to the Zoning Ordinance, and it was not consistent with other ordinances we have reviewed.

Porter Township Zoning Ordinance Amendments: - Motion Cedarquist/Selles Unanimous Vote to not concur with the proposed amendment to Section 3.04 R-L Residential Lake District, suggesting instead to focus on low impact development strategies near the lakes. Gravel or crushed rock should be encouraged with bituminous or concrete as lesser options.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:25 Motion by Doroh / Corwin – unanimous vote.