

Van Buren County Planning Commission
October 28, 2009
219 Paw Paw St. Paw Paw, MI
Minutes

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Members in attendance: Denise Massey, Kurt Doroh, Connie Selles, Richard Corwin, Jeff Radtke, Scott Cedarquist, Ted Thar, Pam Stermer, Tony Hemenway

Absent: None, Celinda Gilmore

Public present: None

Agenda: Doroh/Cedarquist Motion to approve agenda – unanimous vote

Minutes of September 23, 2009: Approved on a Doroh/Cedarquist Motion - unanimous vote

Public Comment: None

Reports:

County Commissioner – Commissioner Massey: Massey reported Northpoint property easement was approved

Southwestern Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) Representative: Radtke reported

Local visits: Selles visited Waverly & Alma PC Meetings Both seemed willing to work with us. Massey attended Pine Grove Twp (contact was Craig Kincade) also Alma Twp Board

Unfinished Business:

Discussion regarding County Land Use Planning – Thar discussed some options for grant funding. One option is to submit an application for the First Steps Service Grants (up to 7000) from LIAA. This would get \$7000 of in kind services such as meeting facilitation, professional planning, group organization, etc (Develop the intergovernmental committee)... If the group decides to set up an intergovernmental committee made up of county, city, twp, village representatives, the committee may pursue funding to develop the Master Plan, Economic Development Plan

New Business:

Berrien County Master Plan Review: Berrien County Master Plan is consistent with VB county comprehensive plan and furthers VBC desire to promote smart growth and farmland preservation.

Good discussion on Economic, health and environmental benefits of Green Infrastructure and integrating the written survey results used in their growing greener project in the plan..

Good discussion on how their region is shifting from industrial focus to more tourism and recognizing that planning for the shift requires viewing the county in terms of larger functional landscapes as opposed to land use and that it requires restructuring the community development process so that services are complement each other .

Identifying Agricultural Preservation Priority areas will support and encourage local governments to participate in the County PDR program. The plan states it will take an active role in supporting view of larger functional landscapes by the use of ordinance audits to evaluate how local zoning facilitates newer market opportunities for agriculture.

Arlington Twp Master Plan review Arlington Township Master Plan is consistent with VB county comprehensive plan. Good discussion on townships position on importance of maintaining resilience of ecological systems and preservation of agriculture throughout the plan. Note: 25-30 ft set back from water's edge is low compared to watershed protection recommendations of 200 foot setback seen in other plans. Other comments include a suggestion to the planning commission to review the plan for typographical and grammar issues, It would be beneficial to see what the results of the survey were and how the master plan will be used to support the findings, questions about sliding scale zoning as it is not consistent with other plans we have reviewed.

Solid Waste Plan Comments- We reviewed the plan and all agreed plan was clear and concise.

PA116 Review Hamilton Twp. Hassle Property- Motion Cedarquist/Massey unanimous vote to recommend approval

PA116 Review Keeler Twp. Berry Brook Farms Property- Motion Hemenway/Cedarquist unanimous vote to recommend approval

Lawrence Rezoning- comments it would reduce density around lake properties, follows masterplan, we concur with the Lawrence Planning Commission's recommendation to Board to adopt. Twp. should be aware that procedure followed on this issue could be questioned.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 pm Doroh/Cedarquist Motion – unanimous vote