

Van Buren County Planning Commission
January 27, 2010
219 Paw Paw St. Paw Paw, MI
Minutes

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

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

Absent: , Denise Massey,

Public present: Dave Foerster

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

Minutes of October 28, 2009: Approved on a Stermer/Cedarquist Motion - unanimous vote

Public Comment: None

Reports:

County Commissioner – None

Southwestern Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) Representative: Radtke reported

Local visits None

Unfinished Business:

Discussion regarding County Land Use Planning – Foerster asked to forgo comment during public comment to speak here. He talked about the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for SW Michigan Plan written by SWMPC. He also suggested that VBCPC members should read and send comments regarding the plan.

Further discussion was made regarding County Land Use Planning. Thar will prepare resolution to take to Board Of County Commissioners asking for permission and money to go after First Steps Grant through LIAA.

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.

Antwerp Twp. Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Articles II and III: (re:High Tunnel Systems) Selles/Doroh Motion to concur with Antwerp Twp. Planning Commission's recommendations to Antwerp Twp Board to adopt these as written.

Nominations for 2010 VBCPC: Corwin/Gilmore motion to keep Chair and Vice Chair same as 2009 Unanimous Vote Carried

Schedule of meeting dates for 2010: November Meeting date changed to November 17, 2010, and December Meeting date changed to December 15, 2010

Un-official Business- Thar handed out a document and dvd of Columbia Twp. Planning Commission Meeting to members of VBCPC.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 pm Doroh/Cedarquist Motion – unanimous vote