

Van Buren County Planning Commission
February 28, 2007
219 Paw Paw St. Paw Paw

Minutes

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Members in attendance: Jeff Radtke, Pam Stermer, Connie Selles, Celinda Gilmore, Jim Ray, Ted Thar, Scott Cedarquist, Dan Gehl

Absent: Jerry Campbell, Kurt Doroh,

Public present: James Smith, Heather Smith, and Lola Smith (Antwerp Twp. Business)

Agenda: Amended to include Celinda Gilmore approved absence. Approved on a Stermer, Ray motion.

Minutes of January 24, 2007: Approved on a Gehl, Ray motion.

Public Comment: VBCPC asked for clarification on the Antwerp Twp. Zoning Amendment issue.

Reports: *County Commissioner* – Jim Ray reported.

- BOC had approved an adjustment to the VBCPC Budget allotting an additional \$2000 for the 2007 fiscal year.
- BOC had approved the Pictometry Project which will include new Orthophotography and oblique photography to be flown in spring 2007
- Van Buren County General Highway Map recently updated and printed for distribution.

Southwestern Michigan Commission (SWMC) Representative – No report (quarterly)

Unfinished Business: *Budget Amendment* – covered in BOC report

Smart Growth Scorecards – Thar reported having received positive feedback from 2 twps. Regarding scorecards. Discussion regarding a letter received of Chuck Echenstahler, planner/consultant to several municipalities. VBCPC agreed to send response to Mr. Echenstahler regarding discussion. Letter to explain that Smart Growth Scorecards were to be intended as a tool when attempting to revise Master Plan, we will take advice of using the Smart Growth Scorecards on our Comprehensive Plan, and to reiterate that in this phase, we were looking for comments as to the content and had not claimed that these were in final stage.

Citizen Planner Training - Kurt's Training has been paid.

New Business:

Hamilton Township Zoning Amendment - Some discussion was held on this agenda item, however it was agreed to contact representatives of Hamilton Twp. to ask if they can include some documentation regarding what changes were made from previous Zoning Ordinance. Cedarquist also recommended a letter be drafted and sent to all Zoned Communities/PCs asking for them to include an electronic copy, a document explaining an changes, and ask that a representative attend our meeting when reviewing when possible. Cedarquist will send draft to Thar to type up and discuss at next meeting.

Antwerp Twp. Zoning Amendment. - After some brief comments from James Smith, Heather Smith, and Lola Smith regarding the Zoning Amendment Request, the VBCPC concurred with the recommendations of the Antwerp Twp. Planning Commission to the Antwerp Twp. Board to approve such amendment. Selles felt this was a good example of using Conditional Zoning.

MAP Membership update- Thar stated that membership will be renewed in June.

Meeting Adjourned 8:10 PM. Stermer/ Dehl motion