

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

Minutes

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

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

Absent: Jerry Campbell, Kurt Doroh, Celinda Gilmore

Public present: None

Agenda: Approved on a Selles, Ray motion

Minutes of February 28, 2007 : Approved on with change made to wording on Cedarquist, Ray motion.

Public Comment:

VBCPC will meet at County Property in South Haven for June meeting, and will invite South Haven Twp. and Covert Twp. planning commissions to join.

Reports:

County Commissioner – Jim Ray reported nothing new to report

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

Local visits: Scott Cederquist visited with Bangor Twp. folks to discuss their current situation regarding zoning. He has asked that the staff look into some statistics regarding municipalities in Michigan without zoning.

Unfinished Business:

Hamilton Township Zoning Amendment - Radtke expressed regret for not contacting Hamilton Officials will do so by next meeting. Thar noted to have spoken to Hamilton Twp. Zoning Administrator and will get some information from him for next meeting.

New Business:

Almena Twp. Smartgrowth Scorecard response: Almena Twp. was the first municipality to use the Smartgrowth Scorecards in reviewing their Master Plan. The VBCPC commends Almena's progressive efforts. It was noted that Farmland Preservation is an area that may be considered in future amendments to the Master Plan. VBCPC will pass along information to assist in this process.

City of Bangor Zoning Amendments: VBCPC appreciated City of Bangor for passing this on to us for review. Selles noted the City's Zoning Text related to PUD is optional and that only a handful of documents are required for the Planning commission to review the project. Site Plan Review process is the time to negotiate with the developer for a plan that fits the surroundings and enhances community growth. No formal action necessary as VBCPC action not required on City action. Thar was going to check the details of the 425 agreement between City of Bangor and Arlington Twp. for more information.

Paw Paw River Watershed Municipality Master Plan/Zoning Ordinance Review & Assistance Project: VBCPC members felt this could be a wonderful opportunity for municipalities in this area to have professional advice given for no money. Thar will talk to Doroh to see if he knows anyone in Arlington as they could benefit from this.

Review letter from VBCPC to Municipalities for what we hope to receive from them when reviewing their Master Plans and Zoning Ordinances: Changes were made to sample letter and will be discussed at next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 PM. Ray, Scott motion