

VALLEY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
March 24, 2009

Call to Order: Melodie Dobbins called the meeting to order at 7:22 PM on March 24, 2009.

Roll Call: Brandee Ellis, Harry Smith, Melodie Dobbins, Bill Jones, and Paul Shamblin, and Rhonda Mallory were present.

***The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

Minutes: Two clerical errors were noted. Brandee made the motion to accept the minutes after changes from the February meeting. Mel seconded. The motion passed.

Comments on non-agenda items: Paul brought up an upcoming request for land to be split. It will require a variance and he will follow up on it. He also recommended that we update our ordinance(s) to include stipulations for those people who want to live in campers, cars, teepees, etc. It was decided to have everyone think this over and discuss it at next months' meeting. Paul will bring our current rules to the meeting.

Old Business:

1. Plot Plan: It was decided at last months' meeting to leave the zoning request as is for the time being.
2. I-1 Industrial District. The proper term is "low light pollution" and the change will be made to the Ordinance. It was approved with this change at the February meeting.
3. Master Plan Update: The hearing date was changed to Tuesday, May 26, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. and the mailing of the proposed amendments will go out next week.

New Business:

1. Wind Energy: Rhonda brought a research noting concerns to be taken into consideration when writing this ordinance. Mel said the State is working on the electrical grid for Western Michigan at this time. It is believed that the state will regulate the large developments and that we should concentrate on the small and mid-sized turbines and windmills at this time. Various concerns and situations were discussed. It was discussed that insurance and engineer inspection should be required for anything put in the air and that FAA regulations should be checked for height requirements. All members were asked to compile a "most important list" for this ordinance for next month's meeting.
2. Annual Report: It was noted that "board" should be changed to "commission" in some locations and the report will be updated to include this meetings information. Harry motioned to approve the report with changes and Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed. It was discussed that this report should be reviewed every six months.
3. April election of officers: It was noted that next month's meeting will include a vote to elect officers for the Planning Commission.

4. Training Dates: Everyone who signed up for the March 31st training was reminded that it will be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Also, MTA training will be held at the Allegan Township Hall on April 30th for recent updates to Planning Commission responsibilities and concerns. This training is \$35/person. Paul and Mel agreed to go to the training and report back to the commission.
5. Misc: Mel is receiving pricing from Michigan Township Services on pricing for their help with writing and reviewing ordinances, Master Plan, etc. She will email this pricing out as she receives it. They received poor references for past performance and Bill agreed to check out recent references to see if they had improved their service.

Motion to Adjourn: Brandee made the motion to adjourn. Rhonda seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda Mallory, Secretary

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