

**VALLEY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY March 26, 2013**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Garofalo.

**Roll Call:** Members present: Harry Smith, Carol Browne, Fred Lewis, Tony Garofalo, Ron Remington, Zoning Administrator Paul Shamblyn was absent

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Minutes:** Harry Smith made a motion to approve the minutes supported by Fred Lewis. The January 22, 2013 Planning Commission minutes were approved.

**Approval of Agenda:** Harry Smith made a motion supported by Ron Remington to approve the Agenda of March 26, 2013. Chair Garofalo stated there are three items for discussion to be added to the Non-Agenda items. The Agenda was approved.

**Open Discussion on Non-Agenda items**

A. This portion of the meeting was moved from its regular place on the agenda to accommodate Dr. Jim Connell, a member of the Allegan Township Planning Commission, who is interested in improving bike paths for residents of Allegan County. He stated that biking has become more popular and as a result, issues of safety are being discussed by the city of Allegan and Allegan Township. Many riders choose to ride around Lake Allegan because of the scenic nature of the route and because the shoulders on Monroe Road were widened to accommodate riders the last time the road was repaved. He stated that Allegan Township had passed a resolution supporting safe bike travel by requesting that appropriate roadways have a four foot shoulder and bike line when they are repaved.

Dr. Connell requested that Valley Township Planning Commission consider adopting such a resolution and a Recreation Plan for the township. Such an act would make Valley eligible for DOT grants to improve and widen additional roads for biking and other recreational activities when it is time for repaving. He stated that townships who network and show cooperation are more likely to be successful obtaining grants. It is the hope of the surrounding townships to have an interconnecting safe bike path that would include Valley, Allegan and other townships.

Chair Garofalo pointed out it is getting close to time for review of Valley Township's Master Plan. There are references to recreation currently in the plan. Valley incorporates much of the State Game Area and has identified recreation as one of its primary assets. Those references could be pulled out as a basis for a Recreation Plan. Dr. Connell will continue to keep the Valley Township Planning Commission apprised of the safe bike path project.

B. Chair Garofalo reported on a meeting he attended called Pipeline Awareness for Excavator Operations in Ann Arbor. He received a publication identifying companies who have 2.5 million miles of underground pipelines in Michigan. These companies are required to respond and assist with any pipeline disaster that occurs with their pipelines. Chair Garofalo suggested this information should be made available to our residents through the website and through posting the list in the township office.

C. Secretary Browne informed the Planning Commission that it is time for the Annual Report to be reviewed. She will make copies available to members before the next meeting.

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**Old Business:**

A. Review of Wireless Ordinance

A. Chair Garofalo stated that new federal regulations require a review of the Wireless Tower Ordinance to ensure compatibility and compliance. Companies can't be charged a second fee to add additional facilities to an existing tower. If the Township does not respond to a request by a cellular company within 30 days, the request is automatically approved. Chair Garofalo stated that he had reviewed our current ordinance and asked for discussion of the wording on Section I, paragraph (e) Land Use Requirements, number 5 on page 5 of the Wireless Communication ordinance.

After discussion, a motion to recommend to the Township Board to amend the Wireless Communication ordinance by removing the words "or the special use permit will be subject to revocation by the Township Board" was made by Fred Lewis and supported by Ron Remington. This will make our ordinance comply with the new federal regulations. Motion passed.

**New Business:**

None

**Zoning Administrator Report**

None

**Adjournment**

Harry Smith made a motion to adjourn supported by Ron Remington. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol S. Browne, Secretary