

TOWNSHIP OF SOMERSET, COUNTY OF HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN – PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
February 8, 2022/ PAGE 1 OF 3

CALL TO ORDER – The regular meeting of the Township of Somerset Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson, Namrata Carolan, on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Somerset Center Community Room, 12715 E. Chicago Road, Somerset Center, Michigan. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. In attendance there were three members of the public. (Maureen Butrico, Curtis Gale, and Maxine Blucher). In Attendance there was Zoning Administrator Don Figiel and Zoning Board of Appeal member Dan York.

ROLL CALL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS – Chairperson – Namrata Carolan – (Present) Vice Chair- Lynn Hartzler- (Present) Secretary – John Berro (Present) Board Representative – David Pumfrey – (Present) Member – Ray York – (Absent)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Dave Pumfrey motioned to approve the Planning Commission Minutes of January 11, 2022. Second by Lynn Hartzler Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Minutes approved. (Absent-1)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chairperson Namrata Carolan suggested item 13 be placed under Unfinished Business. Dave Pumfrey motioned to move item 13 i.e: **“Items to be finalized”** under Unfinished Business as Item B and moved to approve the agenda as proposed. Second by John Berro: Ayes:4 Nays: 0 motion approved. (Absent-1)

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – No Member noted a conflict of interest for the topics to be considered by the Planning Commission at this meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: - Correspondence was received to provide corrections within context of proper wording, grammar and spelling to further amend and approve October 12, 2021 regular meeting minutes previously prepared by Secretary Berro. Lynn Hartzler motioned to accept the Corrected Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2021. Second by Dave Pumfrey Ayes:4 Nays:0 Minutes approved (Absent-1)

COMMENTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVE, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

- A. No comments from Board Representative.
- B. Zoning Administrator Don Figiel mentioned that State Grant application was being pursued to remove and recycle abandoned or used scrap tires.
- C. Zoning Board of Appeals member Dan York provided insight on Land Use and Zoning, providing clarity, difference, significance and importance on the real estate transaction. He summarized Land Use versus Zoning and the purposes of both in association of allocation of Land and dividing them into different zones.

TOWNSHIP OF SOMERSET, COUNTY OF HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN – PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
February 8, 2022/ PAGE 2 OF 3

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Curtis Gale: Commended the Chairperson and Members on the ongoing work within the Planning Commission. He shared his opinions on various issues within the framework of the township including insight on providing fair member representation across Somerset township.

Maureen Butrico- Shared insights pertaining the ongoing issues of Blight. She shared on the specifics of Deed Restrictions to Lake Associations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

A. Chairperson Namrata Carolan asked the Planning Commission board to provide insight on the meeting schedule for the year 2022. It was further decided by the Planning Commission board to meet on alternate months after March 2022. The motion was made by Lynn Hartzler and Second by Dave Pumfrey Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 (Absent-1)

B. Items to be Finalized: Items were brought forth to place the Planned Unit Development (PUD) back to the ordinance and the Master plan amendment of section 2.6. Chairperson Namrata Carolan requested the planning commission board to further discuss on having a public hearing after the month of May due to possible elections then. Lynn Hartzler motioned to set July 12, 2022 as the Public Hearing for Planned Unit Development (PUD) to be added back to the ordinance. Second by John Berro Ayes:4 Nays:0(Absent-1).

Member David Pumfrey: left meeting at 7:30pm

Lynn Hartzler motioned to set July 12, 2022 as the Public Hearing for Amendment of the Master Plan of Section 2.6. Second by John Berro Ayes:3 Nays:0(Absent-1 and Pumfrey left).

C. Further review of specific items of the Zoning Ordinance. There was consensus to review signage requirements and compare it to the Region 2 Planning Commission Sign Ordinance at the March Meeting. Chairperson Namrata Carolan explained actual ordinance amendments needed to be dealt with subsequent basic and simple sign ordinance. There was further consensus of the realities associated with the other items which will need updating of the Zoning Ordinance which will be addressed at the March Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS –

Chairperson Namrata Carolan stated that the current budget for the Planning Commission for the year was requested and will be reviewed.

TOWNSHIP OF SOMERSET, COUNTY OF HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN – PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
February 8, 2022/ PAGE 3 OF 3

Zoning Administrator addressed two items for conclusions “Litter Ordinance” and “Vehicle Repair Ordinance” that have been drafted by the Township Attorney. Lynn Hartzler motioned no recommendation from the Planning Commission on the Litter Ordinance and the Vehicle Ordinance. Second by John Berro Ayes 3 Nays:0 (Absent-1 and Pumfrey left).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ON-GOING BUSINESS – No additional or ongoing business was brought forward.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Members of the Public came forth once again and presented additional comments regarding the Zoning Ordinance review. It was also noted by a member of the Public reflecting that Hillsdale County in its entirety being rural with a population of less than 50,000. Chairperson Namrata Carolan requested other Zoning Ordinance comments be submitted to her in written form for future reference by the Planning Commission and thanked the public for taking time to attend the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM Motion by Lynn Hartzler and Second by John Berro.

Respectfully submitted by Namrata Carolan