

**TOWNSHIP OF SOMERSET, COUNTY OF HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN - PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES**  
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**CALL TO ORDER** – The regular meeting of the Township of Somerset Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson, Namrata Carolan, on Tuesday, January 11, 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 six members of the public. (Maureen Butrico, Sue Roberts, Curtis Gale, Dan York, Mike Morse and Maxine Blucher).

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Lynn Hartzler motioned to approve the Planning Commission Minutes of October 12, 2021. Second by Ray York Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Minutes approved. (Absent-1)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Lynn Hartzler motioned to add to the agenda to appoint officers to the Planning Commission for year. Second by Ray York: Ayes:4 Nays :0 motion approved. (Absent-1)

Lynn Hartzler motioned to approve the agenda. Second by Dave Pumfrey: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 (Absent-1) Agenda approved.

Officers Nominated and voted for the year 2022 were Namrata Carolan-Chair, Lynn Hartzler- Vice Chair and John Berro-Secretary.

**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:** - No correspondence was received.

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

- A. No comments from Board Representative.
- B. The Zoning Administrator opted to comment under New Business.
- C. No Comments from Zoning Board of Appeals.

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***Member John Berro- Arrives at 7:18pm***

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

Maureen Butrico- Shared insights pertaining the ongoing issues of Blight.

Dan York- Suggested on acquiring ordinances in Word document format and having external secretary for meetings.

Curtis Gale: Suggested corrections on Previous minutes and shared his opinions on various issues within the township.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

A. 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. There was further consensus of the realities associated with the other items which will need updating of the Zoning Ordinance. Planning Commission will continue to review those necessary changes.

***Member David Pumfrey: left meeting at 7:45pm***

**NEW BUSINESS –**

Chairperson Namrata Carolan discussed on MTA meetings and Training that she attended through MSU Extension and will be providing informational materials and news on virtual learning in the coming weeks via email.

Chairperson Namrata Carolan discussed with the Planning Commission the MTA laws and requirement on the number of meetings per year. Ray York motioned to recommend meeting monthly to finish reviewing the Zoning Ordinance. Second by John Berro. Vote by Roll Call: Ray York Aye; Lynn Hartzler No; Namrata Carolan No; John Berro Aye. Motion failed.

Chairperson Namrata Carolan discussed to see a budget for the Planning Commission for the year. Ray York motioned to recommend the board of trustees to budget the planning commission to have meetings as scheduled to complete the review. Second by Lynn Hartzler. Vote by Roll Call: Ray York Aye; Lynn Hartzler Aye; Namrata Carolan Aye; John Berro Aye. Motion passed.

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Zoning Administrator addressed items on Planned Unit Development. He addressed the mini storage or self-storage appears in two zoning Districts (C-2 and I-1) in Somerset Township. He also addressed “Litter Ordinance” and “Vehicle Repair and Storage Ordinance” that has come from the Attorney. He further addressed Signage Regulations for the Zoning Ordinance from the Region 2 Planning Commission. Section 2.6 Master plan was addressed.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ON-GOING BUSINESS** – Ray York suggested that we add a line item to the Planning Commission Agenda i.e.: “Items to be finalized”.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Members of the Public came forth once again and presented additional comments regarding the Zoning Ordinance review. Chairperson Namrata Carolan requested these 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 after a long difficult year of 2021 caused due to Covid 19.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM Motion by Lynn Hartzler and Second by John Berro.

Respectfully submitted by Namrata Carolan