

**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, March 15, 2022 at 7:03 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. (Curtis Gale, Gary Grueneberg 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 (Absent) Board Representative – David Pumfrey – (Absent) Member – Ray York – (Present)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Lynn Hartzler motioned to approve the Planning Commission Minutes of February 8, 2022. Second by Ray York Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Minutes approved. (Absent-2)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Ray York moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Lynn Hartzler: Ayes:3 Nays: 0 motion approved. (Absent-2)

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 noted as received.

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 that was pursued on January 28, 2022 to remove and recycle abandoned or used scrap tires was approved for 500 tires. The Grant is to be used prior to December 31, 2022. Don Figiel provided information on Planning and Zoning for Solar Energy Systems by Michigan State University Extension.

C. Zoning Board of Appeals member Dan York provided insight on the upcoming Zoning board of Appeals meeting.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Curtis Gale: He shared his opinions on various issues within the framework of the township including insight on Planning Commission Budget Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

A. Chairperson Namrata Carolan summarized minimal communication by Township board Of Trustees concerning the Planning Commission Budget Report and will follow up once again prior to the May Meeting.

B. Further review of specific items of the Zoning Ordinance was established with a target date for the month of May to complete revisions and approval to present at the July Public Hearing.

C. Ray York updated the Planning Commission board in regards to the change to the funneling ordinance clarifying access to common land use and to discuss at the next meeting in May.

NEW BUSINESS –

Chairperson Namrata Carolan brought up an upcoming seminar/workshop on March 31, 2022 by the Michigan Township for the Duties and responsibilities of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. This seminar/workshop will be conducted in Battle Creek, MI. Chairperson Namrata Carolan stated she will be attending this seminar, suggesting that Zoning Board of Appeals representative and the Zoning Administrator including the board members of the Planning Commission and Trustees should consider attending to be educated.

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

ITEMS TO BE FINALIZED –

Chairperson Namrata Carolan emphasized the intention by the Planning Commission to have multiple reach out to the public in addition to the required public hearing on July 12, 2022 for the Planned Unit Development (PUD) to be placed back to the Ordinance and the Master plan Section 2.6 chart amendment.

There was consensus of the realities associated with the items which will need updating of the Zoning Ordinance which will be targeted for the upcoming dates to ensure applicability and coverage of each ordinance and addressed at the May Meeting. The Planning Commission Board agreed for Ray York to develop a plan for completing the ordinances.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Members of the Public came forth once again and presented additional comments regarding the Zoning Ordinance review including the term funneling. Chairperson Namrata Carolan requested other Zoning Ordinance comments be submitted to all Planning Commissioners in written form. She thanked the public for taking time to attend the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM Motion by Lynn Hartzler and Second Ray York.

Respectfully submitted by Namrata Carolan