

**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, May 10, 2022 at 7:07 PM in the Somerset Center Community Room, 12715 E. Chicago Road, Somerset Center, Michigan. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. In attendance there were two members of the public. (Curtis Gale, and Mary Meints). 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 – (Absent) Member – Ray York – (Present)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Ray York motioned to approve the Planning Commission Minutes of March 15, 2022. Second by Lynn Hartzler Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Minutes approved. (Absent-1)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Lynn Hartzler moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Ray York: 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: - No Correspondence was noted as received.

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

A. No comments from Board Representative. (Absent)

B. Zoning Administrator Don Figiel shared procedures to adopt or amend a master plan. An overview of Michigan Planning Enabling Act Requirements, with a flow chart and other resolutions to adopt samples were discussed. Don Figiel provided information on Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, with insights on policy for allowing commercial Solar Panel Development on PA 116 Lands.

C. Zoning Board of Appeals member Dan York provided insight on the upcoming workshops with the Michigan Townships Association that can be participated both in person and online at various locations namely: May 19, 2022 Treetops Resort Conference Center, Gaylord, MI, May 25, 2022 Fetzer Center at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 31, 2022 Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center, Frankenmuth, MI. The time-frames for the workshops were from 5pm to 8pm. The training is equipped to review sources of township planning and zoning authority, the structure and function of the planning commission and zoning board of appeals, and the role of the township board. The training workshop

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also equip with the “ins and outs” of master plans and zoning ordinances, along with key strategies for effective decision-making.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Curtis Gale: He shared his opinions on various issues within the framework of the township including insight on Planning Commission Budget Report and commended the Planning Commission team for the continued work in progress with the review of the ordinances.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

A. Chairperson Namrata Carolan summarized minimal communication by Township board Of Trustees concerning the materials and reports not being read and followed especially Planning Commission Budget Report and will follow up once again at the next upcoming board of Trustees meeting.

B. Chairperson Namrata Carolan after further review of specific items of the Zoning Ordinance that was established with a target date of completion for the month of May requested for a motion in reference to revisions made to the ordinances to present at the July Public Hearing. Ray York motioned to remove Section 3.12 pages 22-26 on Medical Marijuana out of the Zoning Ordinance as it is comes under the regulations, authority and jurisdiction of the State of Michigan. Second by Namrata Carolan: Ayes:4 Nays: 0 motion approved. (Absent-1)

C. Ray York motioned to provide the meaning of the removal of the non enforceable ordinance of the Section 3.12 to the board of trustees with explanation of the state functions. Second by Lynn Hartzler: Ayes:4 Nays: 0 motion approved. (Absent-1)

D. Ray York motioned to accept the revised ordinances as discussed by the Planning Commission Members. Second by John Berro: Ayes:4 Nays: 0 motion approved. (Absent-1)

NEW BUSINESS –

Chairperson Namrata Carolan brought up the upcoming seminar/workshop on May 19, 25 and 31 already discussed by ZBA member Dan York by the Michigan Township for the Duties and responsibilities of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Chairperson Namrata Carolan stated she will be attending this seminar once again and possibly having one in the upcoming months in Somerset Township, 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 once again 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 to ensure applicability and coverage of each revised ordinance addressed at the May 10th Meeting.

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 and some questions asked were answered to the satisfaction of those asked.

She thanked the public for taking time to attend the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM Motion by Lynn Hartzler and Second John Berro.

Respectfully submitted by Namrata Carolan