

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES from
Wednesday, October 6, 2010 Meeting

Regular Meeting

Chairman Zarantenello called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
Members present: Beemer, Clark, Hackley, Marske, Payne, Zarantenello.
Absent: Krumrie, Bohac.

Approval of minutes of September 1, 2010 Regular Meeting

Moved by Marske, seconded by Clark to approve the minutes as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Approval of agenda.

Moved by Hackley seconded by Marske to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

none

NEW BUSINESS

none

Sub-committee updates

Sustainability Sub-Committee

- **Wind Ordinance**

Marske reported on his inquiries into wind energy ordinances. He noted that there is an issue regarding requirements for decommissioning bonds. The feeling was that there should be, but only for commercial scale projects, not domestic wind projects. He will continue to research, and will bring us a model ordinance to consider. There is more information on the MTA website.

- **Light ordinance**

Clark commented that the lights in Bridgman look good, and are shielded. Beemer said that he had recently been to the Sturgis Middle School, and that they have a nice application of down lighting in conjunction with a wind generator and solar panels. Hackley said that the information handed out at the last meeting about lighting ordinances was a bit confusing. He felt that it needed to be kept simple, basically addressing shielding and glare on neighboring properties, and ambient light escaping and causing light pollution. Beemer provided two additional handouts, one from the

International Dark-Sky Association, the other a brochure describing the Madison, WI rules. The discussion from the Commissioners revolved around enforcement, exceptions, and hours of enforcement.

Overlay Districts

Hackley reported that he had met with Bohac and they held a conference call with Greg Milliken to talk over the latest draft. Bohac is concerned that this zoning ordinance and map amendment may have an adverse impact on some of the smaller residential and other parcels along the highway. It was decided that we would request the township engineers to produce maps combining parcels, zoning, and structures at a scale where we can be much more exact in our analysis than we have been able to be using existing maps. Bohac is taking care of this. It was pointed out that we have previously taken steps to keep undersized lots from being overdeveloped, and perhaps we may want to just go forward with this rather than being so sensitive to it. It was suggested that there be a public meeting prior to publishing and noticing property owners, so that a discussion can be held with property owners at an earlier stage than impending action.

Milliken was asked to consider how to adjust the sign ordinance to allow projecting signs over sidewalks in the CBD overlay district. He will do so, but his initial response was that it will require concurrence with the county road commission, which holds jurisdiction over all the township roads.

Comments from public

No members of the public were present.

Other Business

Hackley raised the question of whether we want to look at zoning to restrict medical marijuana dispensary businesses. General discussion followed, and it was agreed to consider this question at a later date.

Moved by Clark, seconded by Marske to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Hackley

Chikaming Township Planning Commission Secretary

10/11/2010