

CASS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes of March 24, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Cook at 4:03 p.m.

Members Present: Barbara Cook, Roseann Marchetti, Gwenn Johnson, Annie File, David Kring, Andy Anderson, William Zuhl, and David Fleming

Members Absent: Tom Swartz

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Roseann Marchetti to approve the March 24, 2016, amended agenda to include the “Mason Township Master Plan.” The motion was seconded by Bill Zuhl with all in favor and motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Andy Anderson to approve the January 27, 2016, minutes. The motion was seconded by Gwenn Johnson with all in favor and motion carried. Because the February Planning Commission meeting was cancelled due to weather, there were no February minutes to approve.

New Business:

Howard Township – Amendment to Zoning Ordinance

Linda McGregor, Zoning Administrator for Howard Township, explained Howard Township’s decision to include a section regarding Private Roads to their zoning ordinance. They believe that incorporating this language into the zoning ordinance makes it clearer and easier to enforce. Linda plans to make forms so that it is easier for Cass County to maintain and work with the roads. We found the amendment well written and thorough and have requested to use it as a model for some of our townships. Linda affirmed that Howard Township was amenable to that.

A motion was made by Roseann Marchetti to approve the Howard Township zoning amendment. The motion was seconded by Andy Anderson with all in favor and motion carried.

P.A. 116 – Volinia Township – Abbott

A motion was made by David Fleming to approve the Abbott P.A. 116 application. The motion was seconded by Roseann Marchetti with all in favor and motion carried.

Mason Township Master Plan

The Planning Commission was confused by Mason Township’s submission. The accompanying letter references that the only changes in the master plan were to census data and township resources. However, there was no indication where those changes were. In fact some census data and other references appear quite outdated. The letter was also dated January 31, 2016, but received March 22, 2016, which already put the Planning Commission past the 42 days requested deadline.

A motion was made by Andy Anderson to request that Mason Township provide us with more specifics regarding the changes by April 20, and to have a representative at the April 27 Planning Commission meeting for any necessary discussion. The motion was seconded by Annie File with 6 in favor and 2 in objection and motion carried.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: April 27, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. at the County Building, Kincheloe Room