

Watertown Township
Planning commission
Special Meeting
April 21, 2016

Members Present: Gary Fetting, Ed Budzinski, Al Stoutenburg, Dale Schoen and Sheila Coats, also present Zoning Administrator, Richard Honaman.

Members Absent: William Dixon, Scott Franzel (resigned)

Guests: Dick Henderson, Roger Brown and Robert Eggers of Spicer Group.

Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by Gary Fetting, Vice Chairman. All present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda:

Master Plan update meeting with Robert Eggers, AICP from Spicer Group, the proposed company being hired to provide updated Master Plan. Asked Robert Eggers to explain how Recreation Plan fits into our needs along with the Master Plan. Gary stated how hard it was for us to stay on task when the Planning Commission tried to do it ourselves. Master Plan kickoff plan, Mr Eggers will explain pros / cons of adding Master Plan process, Survey, Recreation Plan and plan at next meeting. He shared with us a google earth image of our Township. By the fourth meeting, he will have a draft of the updated Master Plan. We will meet 4 times, wants to know our goals and wishes, community input results. Future land use map and by 4th meeting draft will be ready for review. Passed out fun facts sheet, interested in any items we are interested in. Sheila will send e-mail to Robert R Eggers in excel format regarding survey. We talked about including Recreation Plan in the Master Plan. Some communities our size can be filed with State to get grants after completion. Spicer Group submitted 12 and 11 were funded last year, 8 of 10 year before that and 9 of 9 the year before that. DNR says don't have to have a separate Recreation Plan, but it can be included with the Master Plan and is good for 5 years. Now would be most cost effective method to include. Gary asked what is included:

- Community Information

- Community Input

- Recreation Goals and What you Wish to Accomplish

Have checklist to us before submitting. Mr Eggers explain that in 1970 we started selling mineral rights, but funds were put in a trust fund to help communities with parks and recreation in their communities. State Park fees of \$11 also contributes to fund. Multi-use path or trail, Tawas got 1.2 million towards parks and recreation. Up to \$300,000 per grant. Frankenmuth got \$800,000 to buy land, matching 25%. Are you able to work with several communities together? Yes, they like collaboration with surrounding areas. Could possibly

connect a trail to Sandusky walking trail? Yes, gave examples Goodland Township and City of Imlay City wrote a recreation plan to buy land, 20 acres adjacent to Township Hall. Discussed 1600 acres of State land available for use.

Tennis courts, bike path, park, MDOT shoulder, good points on both sides. Next regular meeting scheduled for June 16, 2016 at 6:00 PM to meet and to work on Master Plan. Talk about survey results, demographics and goals. He will forward ahead to each of us a list of possible goals to discuss at next meeting.

Minutes:

Gary Fetting made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2016 meeting, support by Dale Schoen, motion carried.

Motion to change all meetings to 6:00 PM by Sheila Coats, support by Ed Budzinsky, motion carried.

Dick asked why we feel we need a recreation plan, what purpose would we seek to use for recreation plan? Discussed views of many regarding many possibilities, but don't have any one thing in particular in mind.

Other items discussed by Gary Fetting were "getting sight plans drawn on napkin" for Planning Commission to have for review. For example, Ball Equipment plan was put together by people not qualified to draw up plans. Review plan requires arrow showing "N", existing drains, etc.

Motion to adjourn by Dale Schoen, support by Gary Fetting, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Sheila Coats

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