

Watertown Township
Planning commission
Special Meeting
February 19, 2015

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

Members Absent: John Bezotte

Guests: None

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm by Gary Fetting, Vice Chairman. All present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Al Stoutenburg arrived at 6:40 pm and led the meeting.

Agenda: Master Plan to be updated, Mortimer Lumber plan for a new sign, Ball Equipment submitted plan for new signs to be placed at 600 S Sandusky Rd (Summit Building).

Scott Franzel made a motion to accept January 15, 2015 minutes, seconded by Dale Schoen. Motion carried.

1. Mortimer Lumber sign approval request. Scott Franzel requested they be responsible to remove the portable sign. Ed Budzinski made a motion to approve sign request with sight plan as presented, seconded by Sheila Coats. Motion carried.
2. Summitt property – request to use existing sign post and replace with their own signs. A drawing was provided using existing two posts, 1 with 2 posts and 1 with a single post. Motion to approve by Ed Budzinski, seconded by Gary Fetting. Motion carried.
3. Start review of existing Master Plan. The principal being drainage, wetlands, future land use, etc. GIS (Geographical Information Service), the county is working on implementing at their level. Google earth type view, want townships to develop parcel maps, which would include parcel id, size. Township would be given key to enter information into maps. Rich Honaman could get look and provide permits based on view made available in GIS. The software company build the layers of plots @ \$3.00 per parcel. County would pay ½ and wants each township to pay ½, or \$1.50 per parcel. We have over 1000 parcels. Lexington has their own system and is tying into St Clair County. Ed Budzinski asked timeframe for this to be available. Todd Hillman is person who got this all started.
4. Scott Franzel had a class offered for Planning. He signed up for 8 week class, 3 hours per night, given a “bible” for Planning. Scott stated there are 4 chapters in the book. He stated that it talks about how we should always involve the public more than anything. We should send out surveys, very effective ways to involve public. Focus groups, townhall meetings, web blogs and Facebook. Any social media is an excellent way to get

people involved. They talked about different ways to attract people and ideas to your community. The old ways of using incentives are not as effective and the new ways of attracting more educated people to be attracted to your community. States that recreational activities and a friendly environment are more attractive to more educated people. Higher educated people are who the focus should be on. They prefer open spaces, low crime and recreational areas. Rezoning areas (strictly commercial and combining with residential) are a way to get people to have easy access and readily available to the public. Have annual meeting to review Master Plan to reach goals. Collaborate with surrounding communities. Have joint meetings are the way the state wants you to approach. Taxation, police powers, coordinate those things. Technology is key to getting townships up to speed to get quality of living. They use to try and attract industry, now want us to attract educated people. (Many work from home). Instead of having success is organization.

Zoning: Diversity and cluster zoning patters. Clean, green environments, try to think globally. Bring products and services to sell all over the world. Class was for all of Michigan. Other townships don't even have a planning commission. Scott is now a member of County Planning Commission. He stated 90% will respond on a blog over time. Instead of waiting have an annual Master Plan review. Use lots of illustrations in your plan. Grants are only available if your wants and desires for Township are in your Master Plan. Need internet access at Township Hall. Make internet providers aware we have need and want better internet services in the Township. Sent request to Township board to get internet, facebook page and a blog on website. Rich requested we ask Jill Brown to work on getting this set up. Motion by Gary Fetting to have Board look into getting Internet at the Hall, Seconded by Ed Budzinski. Motion Carried. Motion to ask Board to get blog set up and social media on Township website. Scott Franzel made motion to have Jill Brown look into setting up social media and blog at Township level. Seconded by Dale Schoen. Motion carried.

Discussion of City of Marlette Master Plan. Most liked plan put together by Spicer Group out of Saginaw.

Next meeting schedule for March 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Al Stoutenburg will not be here, but Vice Chairman, Gary Fetting will handle the meeting. Everyone is requested to bring 3 ideas to the community. Everyone take notes on Marlette's Master Plan and bring to next meeting. Motion to adjourn by Sheila Coats, Seconded by Gary Fetting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Sheila Coats

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