

County of Antrim - Planning Commission

Jill Barnard
Mike Hayes
Bill Bailey

Jim Gurr, Chairman
Rick Teague, Vice-Chair
Barbara Bradford, Secretary

Laura Stanek
Christian Marcus
Ron Tschudy

Minutes - September 6, 2016

Board of Commissioners Room, 2nd Floor, Antrim County Building, Bellaire, Michigan

Members Present: Jim Gurr, Bill Bailey, Jill Barnard, Barb Bradford, Mike Hayes, Christian Marcus, Rick Teague, Ron Tschudy
Members Absent: Laura Stanek
Staff and Others: Pete Garwood, Janet Koch

1. Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairman Jim Gurr

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

None.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

Barb Bradford asked about the August discussion of Kearney Township's revised zoning district; she asked if every change in township zoning districts would have to be reflected in the Antrim County Master Plan. It was the consensus of the Planning Commission that the 5-year review of the Master Plan would take those changes into account.

Motion by Jill Barnard, seconded by Ron Tschudy, to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Banks Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Chairman Jim Gurr said the proposed amendment was an addition to the Greenbelt section of the Banks Township Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment stated that "No invasive species shall be planted in the greenbelt. Existing invasive species shall be identified and managed using appropriate best management practices." It was noted that best management practices could include the use of pesticides or herbicides which is prohibited in Section 4.11.4 and could be a burden to manage.

Motion by Mike Hayes, seconded by Barb Bradford, that the Antrim County Planning Commission found no incompatibilities between the Antrim County Master Plan and the proposed zoning ordinance amendment to add subsection 9 to Article IV Section 4.11 and recommend that Banks Township approve the change. Motion carried – unanimous.

7. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Hard copies of the 2017-2022 CIP, approved by the Board of Commissioners on August 11, 2016, were distributed to members of the Planning Commission at the meeting; a link to an electronic copy had been provided the previous week.

Janet Koch, Associate Planner, gave a quick review of the Finance Committee's discussion earlier that day regarding the CIP. Mr. Marcus asked the Planning Commission's opinion of the proposed 2017 CIP Projects. Mr. Bailey said 911 connectivity in Central Lake Township was a priority for him. Rick Teague, also the Helena Township Supervisor, said he didn't think the Helena Township taxpayers should fund improvements to the County's Grass River Natural Area access road. Mr. Garwood said GRNA is a County park and the County is obligated to maintain the park and the road. Mr. Hayes said each project has its own merit; unless there was a legal requirement that a project be completed that the funding was up for grabs.

Mr. Hayes suggested that the Planning Commission members review the CIP and bring any questions back to the next meeting. The Planning Commission agreed and Mr. Gurr asked that the CIP be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Ms. Bradford said the date in the CIP of the age for the Commission on Aging building was incorrect. Ms. Koch was directed to look into the matter.

8. Various Matters

Mr. Gurr asked about interest in the upcoming Michigan Association of Planners Conference in Kalamazoo. Early registration ends September 23.

9. Public/Member Comment

Ms. Barnard asked about the funding for the construction of the County Building. Mr. Garwood said the voters had rejected a bond issue for the county building. It was his recollection that the money to build it had come from Federal revenue sharing that had accumulated over the years. He said there had been a bond issue to renovate the 1905 Courthouse.

Mr. Marcus asked about the County's master plan. Mr. Gurr said the five-year review needs to be completed by the end of 2017. Mr. Tschudy asked about the presentation by Jim Peters regarding hydraulic fracking at the August Board of Commissioners meeting. Ms. Koch gave a quick presentation of the new Antrim County aerial photography, which was taken in April 2016. She said the State of Michigan is currently reviewing the imagery. A final delivery date is not yet available, but is expected to be at the end of 2016 or early 2017.

Motion by Mike Hayes, seconded by Christian Marcus, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried – unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted and Approved

Barb Bradford, Secretary
Antrim County Planning Commission
Date: