

HENRIETTA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
11732 Bunkerhill Road, Pleasant Lake, MI 49272
Phone: 517-769-6925
Website: henriettatownshipmi.gov

MINUTES FROM 03/26/2024 REGULAR MEETING
(By Anita Szabo, Recording Secretary)

Members present: R. Draeger; J. Duszynski; A. Faist; N. Hawley; T. Kinch; R. Troman; A. Wellington

Also present: A. Grimes, Township Supervisor

1. Call to Order

- Meeting officially called to order at 7:00 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Approval of November 2023 Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from 11/28/2023 meeting were reviewed.
- A motion to accept as written was made by R. Draeger, seconded by J. Duszynski, and passed unanimously by remaining members.

3. Public Comment

- None (no members of public present).

4. Township Official's Report (per A. Grimes)

- Treasurer, Maria McDonald is retiring; her last day is tomorrow.
 - o Three very qualified individuals submitted applications for the job and Matt Chrisinske was chosen as her replacement.
- Winter 2023 tax season closed out last week.
- Work on 2024-2025 budgeting process has commenced.
- A Consumers Energy grant was applied for but, unfortunately, not received.
 - o Plans were to utilize the money toward a building for community events.
- The recycling center/transfer station was awarded the EGLE grant again this year.
 - o This will allow for another scrap tire event to be held on Saturday, June 15, 2024.
- There are some funds available for additional roadwork this year with plans for four projects already underway including Hankerd and Hawkins roads.
 - o Some additional projects are also being worked on and efforts are ongoing to secure additional funds.
 - o Pleasant Bay Association questioned why more money is not spent on roads surrounding the lake, since they pay higher property taxes.
 - A. Grimes explained that regardless of how much you pay in property taxes, the amount that can go toward road maintenance is a fixed, finite amount.
- R. Draeger inquired about status of installing a pickleball court at the Pleasant Lake Park.
 - o Mr. Grimes advised a portion of the existing basketball court is going to be resurfaced for this purpose with the campground having responsibility for the net.

- If enough interest is shown, attempts to secure additional funding for improvements and/or expansion may be pursued.
- R. Troman inquired about status of efforts to track down owners of old Pleasant Lake School.
 - Mr. Grimes advised they did receive an email from the owners asking for additional details on township ordinances, which the county attorney will be responding to.
 - This subject prompted Ms. Wellington to speak about community beautification projects as an alternative to dealing with unsightly or blighted properties.
 - She has personal experience in this arena, including how to garner community interest and support, as well as applying for grants that may be available to assist with costs.

5. Old Business

- Shipping/Cargo Container Ordinance.
 - A draft version of proposed additions and/or amendments, composed by PC Chair N. Hawley, was distributed, reviewed, and discussed by all in attendance.
 - Ms. Hawley will make suggested changes and/or corrections and bring a revised version to the next meeting.
- Clean/Renewable Energy Standards (Act 233 of 2023).
 - Makes significant changes to the permitting process for utility-scale renewable energy facilities, including solar, wind, and battery energy.
 - Allows developers to go directly to the Michigan Public Service Commission as opposed to local governments.
 - A handout composed by PC Chair N. Hawley, detailing items for local governments to contemplate considering the new legislation, was distributed, reviewed, and discussed by all in attendance.
 - A main area of concern are battery-storage facilities, due to the difficulty or potential impossibility of extinguishing a fire should one develop.
 - Ms. Hawley recommends the Planning Commission consider drafting a CREO/Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance (as referred to in the new law) as a means of trying to retain some authority at the local level.

6. New Business

- Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments.
 - Proposed changes, as set forth in a handout composed by PC Chair N. Hawley and distributed to all in attendance, were reviewed and discussed.
 - Text clarification: Residential-1, Section 503 and Residential-2, Section 604, Size of Premises.
 - Definition: Section 201.____, Setback.
 - Text amendment: General Provisions, Section 105, Restoration and Use of Damaged Nonconforming Buildings and Structures.
 - A. Wellington suggested the addition of footnotes in some areas to provide further clarity.
 - Ms. Hawley will make suggested changes and/or corrections and bring a revised version to the next meeting.

7. Committees/Special Projects/Administrative

- N. Hawley provided all in attendance with a handout containing highlights from the February 6, 2024, Henrietta Planning & County Parks Meeting.
- N. Hawley provided all in attendance with a handout detailing results of the recent 2024 Master Plan Opinion Survey which was distributed via social media.

8. Public Comment/Open Discussion

- None (no members of public present).

9. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn meeting was made by R. Draeger, seconded by T. Kinch, and passed unanimously by remaining members.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 23, at 7:00 p.m.