

ISABELLA COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION

October 11, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Isabella County Planning Commission was held on October 11, 2012 in Room 225 of the Isabella County Building, 200 North Main Street, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheryl Jindeel, Gordon Gilchrist, Kelly Bean, Bob Thompson, Jerry Neyer, William Dailey, Christine Alwood

MEMBERS ABSENT: Evelyn Kent

SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT: Tim Nieporte, Community Development Director
Brandy Harger, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Thompson at 7:05 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Thompson stated that a new #9 needs to be added for Farmland Agreements submitted by Blaine E.Block.

A motion was made by Mr. Dailey, supported by Ms. Alwood, to approve the agenda as amended.

Yes: Jindeel, Gilchrist, Bean, Thompson, Neyer, Dailey, Alwood, .

No: None.

Motion carried.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the September 13, 2012 regular meeting were circulated to the Commission prior to the meeting for their review.

A motion was made by Mr. Gilchrist, supported by Ms. Jindeel to approve the minutes as submitted.

Yes: Jindeel, Gilchrist, Bean, Thompson, Neyer, Dailey, Alwood.

No: None.

Motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS

Zoning Board of Appeals – Mr. Gilchrist stated that the board will meet next Wednesday to review an appeal.

Parks & Recreation – Ms. Alwood stated that an application for \$1200 to support the Art in The Park event has been submitted to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs on October 1, 2012. If funded Parks & Rec will be able to purchase additional art supplies and pay designated performers to help increase

the attendance to Art from our Parks. On Thursday, November 1, 2012 the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is scheduling a half-day working session with local partners to discuss the Tribe's 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan. Union Township Board voted 7-0 to authorize the expenditure of \$7,500 in support of the proposed dog park at Mission Creek. She also explained that the Parks & Recreation millage passed in the primary elections.

Board of Commissioners – Mr. Dailey stated that the Board of Commissioners approved the 2013 budget with out cutting any of the Community Development positions that were originally slated to be cut.

Discussion ensued about eliminating zoning in the future.

TOWNSHIP CONCERNS

Jackie Curtis, Denver Township, none heard.

Bob Neeland, Isabella Township, stated that the township was elated when they learned that zoning would be safe, but that is not what is being said tonight.

Mr. Thompson stated that the headline in the Morning Sun the other day was about the County Administrator stating that this issue is not dead and will be looked at again.

Tom Gibbs, Gilmore Township, stated that he believes that the majority of his board is for zoning. If the County were to eliminate zoning the, Township would not pursue it on their own.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jackie Curtis stated that a memorial service will be held for Joel Welty at 3:00 pm on Sunday, October 14, 2012 at United Unitarian Church next to the University Library.

FARMLAND AGREEMENT REVIEW – MACDONALD

Mr. Nieporte explained that our office received a Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program application from the Wise Township Clerk via mail on September 24, 2012. The application has been submitted by Jack L. MacDonald and is located in section 20 of Wise Township, Isabella County, Michigan. The application is for 30 years on a 75 acre farm also known as Tax ID# 16-020-20-005-02. The application appears to be complete and is currently zoned General Agriculture under County Zoning. The County Master Land Use Plan has all of section 20 of Wise Township planned for Rural Agricultural Residential.

It was a consensus of the Board to forward comments on to the Township Clerk.

FARMLAND AGREEMENT REVIEW – BLAINE E. BLOCK

Mr. Nieporte explained that our office received six Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program applications from the Isabella County Clerk on October 5, 2012. These applications were submitted by Blaine E. Block and are located in sections 8, 17, 3, and 7 of Nottawa Township, Isabella County, Michigan. The first application is for 40 years on a 72.89 acre parcel known as Tax ID# 11-008-20-003-02. The application appears to be complete and is currently zoned Restrictive Agriculture under County Zoning. The County Master Land Use Plan has planned for Agricultural Conservation. The second application is for 40 years on a 73.06 acre

parcel known as Tax ID# 11-017-40-003-00. The application appears to be complete and is currently zoned Restrictive Agriculture under County Zoning. The County Master Land Use Plan has planned for Agricultural Conservation. The third application is for 40 years on a 82.25 acre parcel known as Tax ID# 11-003-20-002-00. The application appears to be complete and is currently zoned Restrictive Agriculture under County Zoning. The County Master Land Use Plan has planned for Agricultural Conservation. The fourth application is for 40 years on a 41 acre parcel known as Tax ID# 11-007-30-008-00. The application appears to be complete and is currently zoned General Agriculture under County Zoning. The County Master Land Use Plan has planned for Rural Ag Residential. The fifth application is for 40 years on a 40 acre parcel known as Tax ID# 11-007-20-003-00. The application appears to be complete and is currently zoned General Agriculture under County Zoning. The County Master Land Use Plan has planned for Rural Ag Residential. The sixth application is for 40 years on a 35.5 acre parcel known as Tax ID# 11-007-10-001-01. The application appears to be complete and is currently zoned General Agriculture under County Zoning. The County Master Land Use Plan has planned for Rural Ag Residential.

It was a consensus of the Board to forward comments on the Isabella County Clerk.

MONTCALM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF INTENT

Mr. Nieporte stated that as you are aware this notice of intent is required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, PA 33 of 2008. The act requires that the Montcalm County Planning Commission notify all contiguous Counties'. The notice of intent is on the October 2012 agenda for acceptance and agreement that we will cooperate and comment during their process of amendment to their existing Master Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None Heard.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Nieporte stated that on October 2 the Board of Commissioners approved distribution of the Isabella County Draft Master Plan for comment. At the November meeting the Planning Commission will be setting a public hearing for the December meeting to send the Master Plan to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. Staff has been working on a mobile application for the GIS map viewer and it is now complete and can be downloaded from the iTunes app store or the Google Play store.

PLANNING COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Ms. Alwood stated that she would like to get quarterly updates on Medical Marihuana.

Mr. Bean inquired as to who was on the Ag Subcommittee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the call of the Chairperson at 7:45 p.m.

Christine Alwood, Secretary

Brandy Harger, Recording Secretary