

Planning Commission Meeting
Blue Lake Township Hall
1491 Owasippe Road
Twin Lake, Mi 49457
January 11, 2012

The Meeting started at 7:00 PM.

Present were: Jim Cordray, Barb Grob, Lyle Monette, Norm Swier, & Barb Veldman

Absent: None

Guests: Jim Schlichting

Barb Veldman was asked to introduce herself and tell about herself and her goals for the planning commission.

Perfection of Agenda

Minutes for December 12 Hearing and December 14 meeting were read and approved,

Planning Member Reports:

Lyle: Discussed the new website and how it was accomplished by using a grant.
Discussed the tentative ZBA hearing.

Jim: None

Barb: None

Barb V: None

Norm: None

Jim Schlichting asked to make some comments on the OOEC and other concerns that he had. He still meets with the Chicago scout staff even though he is no longer part of the OOEC. Jim feels that the Chicago Council needs to ask Blue Lake Township to add comments and be part of the definition of what the council wants to do. One question that is important and noted by Jim is, "What does Blue Lake Township want?" He also asked about the planning commission getting involved with the council and we noted that we have never been asked to discuss anything. We told Jim that we would like some council members to meet with us anytime they would be able, to open up the communication line between the council and the planning commission.

Lyle asked about the horse trails being opened to the public and the horse ranch usage. Jim noted that there is a possible sale of that area of the camp.

Continuing Business:

The paper work is complete and the AT & T tower should be ready to construct.

Project Hope is still moving forward but is progressing at a slow rate due to financing and tight money with in the county.

Norm discussed a communication from Doug Hughes on the Walker property. The property is now in an estate settlement and the attorney for the estate has been contacted.

Old Business:

We are still working on the PUD's in our ordinance manual and the relative impact to the present township growth. Jim Cordray made a list of questions that need to be answered before we go into depth writing a new PUD guide.

Among questions we need to work on for the next meeting are writing an ordinance that cannot be circumvented by law, can we have green space/open space without a zoned PUD, what are the best zoning procedures to guide township development, define types of township development, what has been tested in court and is development less political by using a variance.

We were asked to work on these questions for our next meeting. It was suggested that some information should be available on the MTA site.

New Business:

A short discussion on the presentation by Tanya Cabala was noted. The project will have a very nice end result and some work might be accomplished in Blue Lake Township in the future as well.

The new website was again discussed and how it can be used in getting planning commission information out to the public. We need to get the word out that the website is now up and running. It is off to a very good start and we have lots of potential in the use of the site.

The next meeting will be February 15, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Lyle Monette, Secretary