

**PLANNING COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF ONTWA – COUNTY OF CASS
DRAFT
MINUTES FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HELD
ON WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2023 @ 7:00 PM**

Members in Attendance: Chris Marbach, Sandra Seanor, Don Delong, Dawn Bolock, Richard Gates, William Mahaney, Todd Haberlund. Mike Mroczek

Members Absent: Shane Szalai

Chairman Marbach called the meeting of the Ontwa Township Planning Commission to order at 7:04pm

Pledge of Allegiance: All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Marbach welcomed everyone, stating that there was a quorum present. The Chair also welcomed and acknowledged the new Ontwa Township Zoning Administrator John Hanson. A round of applause welcoming the new Zoning Administrator ensued.

Agenda: Chairman Marbach asked if there were any changes, corrections or additions to the agenda as presented. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve. Mike Mroczek moved to approve the agenda; Dick Gates seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Approval of July 5th, 2023, Minutes: Chairman Marbach asked for questions or corrections. Dawn Bolock motioned to approve. Don Delong seconded the motion. Chairman Marbach called for a vote, all were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Land Divisions: 14-0909-017-082-01 Albright – 70830 Driftwood

Zoning Administrator Hanson noted that this particular land division had taken some time to resolve. Don Delong asked if the questions had been resolved and the Zoning Administrator noted that the property had considerable unbuildable acreage as noted in the Land Division Act eliminating the 4:1 ratio requirement.

Dawn Bolock motioned to approve the land division request with Bill Mahaney seconding her motion. Chairman Marbach called for a vote, all were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

New Business: There was no New Business.

Old Business: There was no New Business

Committee Reports:

Zoning Ordinance Review Committee Report: The Review Committee met Tuesday September 5th to review the monkey survey for the Master Plan. The Plan Committee members were each assigned to distribute brochure inviting the public to the Master Plan Open House October 12th, 2023, from 4pm to 7pm. She encourage the public to get involved and participate.

Master Plan Update: Our Planner from Wm's and Works announced an Open House on the Master Plan update October 12, 2023, from 4pm to 7pm. This will be followed up with a community survey.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Zoning Administrator Hanson provided the Planning Commission (see attached) with a compilation report on August permits and the types permits issued.

Members All were pleased because a Zoning Report was available. Zoning Administrator Hanson noted that he would also be developing a code enforcement report and he encouraged members to provide him with feedback indicating any additions proposed.

Public Comments: Chairman Marbach asked for public comment.

Brenda Beadenkopf 68074 Beebe Rd., Niles, Michigan, Spoke about 15 minutes cities and her research.

Loretta Schantz, 29353 Pokagon Hwy, Dowagiac remonstrated against the use of farmland for commercial or housing uses, citing several statistics.

Lisa Smith - 69483 Conrad Rd Edwardsburg Rd - asked about the rationale for rezoning and is concerned about commercial and industrial development and other environmental concerns.

Rose Kelshiemer 67005 Oil City Rd, Edwardsburg, MI – She moved from South Bend and wants this to remain a rural area. She was invited by Chairman Marbach to participate with the Open House and the Master Plan Update.

Betsy Carls – Lady in a blue shirt – noted that she is very concerned about traffic and wanted details of when they could see the traffic numbers. Seanor noted that the Eddies Market representative noted that they would have numbers available 30 days prior to the October 11, 2023, Planning Commission meeting.

Announcements:

Adjourn Meeting: Chairman Marbach adjourned the meeting.

The
Township of Ontwa
&
Village of Edwardsburg

Invite you to:

A Community Master Plan
Open House

Ontwa Township and the Village of Edwardsburg are undertaking a collaborative effort to develop a joint Master Plan. Come voice your opinion on the future of your community!

October 12, 2023
4:00pm to 7:00pm

at

Ontwa Township Hall
26225 US-12
Edwardsburg, MI 49112

Scan the
QR code
to take the
survey, or
visit:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OEMP>

Questions? Please Contact:

Dawn Bolock, Village of Edwardsburg
(269) 663-8484

John Hanson, Township of Ontwa
(269) 663-2347

Zoning and Building Permit Report for August 2023

