

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
TOWNSHIP OF ONTWA – COUNTY OF CASS**

**MINUTES FOR PLANNING COMMISSION HELD  
ON WEDNESDAY  
JULY 5, 2023 @ 7:00 PM**

**Members in Attendance:** Chris Marbach, Sandra Seanor, Don Delong, Dawn Bolock, Richard Gates, William Mahaney, Shane Szalai

**Members Absent:** Todd Haberlund, Mike Mroczek

Chairman Marbach called the meeting of the Ontwa Township Planning Commission to order at 7:03 pm

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

Chairman Marbach welcomed everyone, stating that there was a quorum present.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Agenda:** Chairman Marbach announced the Public Hearing and asked if there were any changes, corrections or additions to the agenda as presented. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve. Don Delong moved to approve the public hearing agenda; William Mahaney seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairman Marbach called for public comment on the Zoning Ordinance amendments before the group.

Neil Bowman 22030 Twilight, Edwardsburg, MI, who originally requested the change to the Zoning Ordinance regarding the keeping of small 4-H animals, requested changes. He asked that rabbits, ducks and chickens be allowed and requested that they be allowed all year round. He agreed that the best way to implement the change was through an annual permit process. His daughter Kate Bowman also spoke in favor of the changes. Another attendee Lisa who lives on Conrad Rd., spoke up for the small animal changes.

Chairman Marbach asked for any other comments both for or against the zoning ordinance changes, hearing none he asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Bill Mahaney made a motion to close the public hearing seconded by Dick Gates. All were in favor, motion passed.

**REGULAR MEETING:**

Chairman Marbach noted that the group had already aid the Pledge of Allegiance and moved to the approval of the Agenda.

**Agenda:** Chairman Marbach asked for any changes, corrections or additions to the agenda as presented. Hearing none he called for approval. Don Delong moved to approve with William

Mahaney seconding the approval. All were in favor, the motion passed.

**Approval of June 6, 2023, Minutes:** Chairman Marbach asked for questions or corrections. He asked that the roll of attendees be added to the minutes. William Mahney moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dawn Bolock. Chairman Marbach called for a vote, all were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

**Land Divisions:** Chairman Marbach introduced the Davis Land Division (14-090-009-003-00) application, which was tabled from last month. The applicant, Mr. Davis, re-summitted the land division application which now meets the 4 to 1 requirement in the Land Division Act.

Chairman Marbach asked the Deputy Zoning Administrator about the Assessor's comments. John Hanson noted that the changes meet the requirements. Dawn Bolock motioned to approve the Land Division as submitted, Sandra Seanor seconded the motion, all were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

**New Business:** Amending the Zoning Ordinance

Chairman Marbach opened the Commission's discussion for the Zoning Ordinance amendment. The discussions centered around the small animal and 4H amendment. Sandra Seanor previewed some of the changes and provided a synopsis of the change before the meeting.

Sandra Seanor made a motion to allow up to 15 total small animals, either rabbits, chickens, and/or ducks, to require that all participants obtain an annual permit from the Zoning Department, which allows for the keeping of said animals 12 months a year. Dawn Bolock seconded the motion. Some discussion ensued. Chairman Marbach called for a vote. All were in favor, motion passed.

**Old Business:** There was no Old Business.

**Committee Reports:**

**Zoning Ordinance Review Committee Report:** Chairman Marbach noted that changes to the Site Condominium and Subdivision Ordinances both passed by the Board of Trustees at the June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting. Seanor noted they both have language addressing greenspace and other clarifications.

**Master Plan Update:** Seanor noted that she expected to get dates for a proposed Open House and a community survey. She said that she would send the potential dates once received.

**Public Comments:** One person asked about the Eddie's Market project. Chairman Marbach explained that they have until the August meeting to address the Planning Commission with their original request.

**Announcements:** Don DeLong noted that there are several volunteer opportunities coming up, all needing volunteer help. The Sports Complex will be host to a large La Crosse Tournament mid-July. Additionally, the Eagle Lake Triathlon is planned for the later part of July.

**Adjourn Meeting:** Chairman Marbach adjourned the meeting.