

Minutes

Green Charter Township Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, February 19, 2025, At 6:00 P.M.

Green Charter Township Hall, 21431 Northland Drive, Paris, MI 49336

CALL TO ORDER:

- The Regular Meeting of the Green Township Planning Commission was Called to Order at 6:02 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at the Green Charter Township Hall
- Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- Roll Call: Tom Streeter, DeeAnn Ruitter, Cindi Postema, Steve Olen, Ross Meads and Larry Finkbeiner are present. There is a quorum. Also in attendance is Brent Mason, Zoning Administrator and recording secretary.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

- No one reported any conflicts of interest with the items on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Approval of the minutes for the last three meetings. Mr. Olen made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024, the November 21, 2024, and the December 19, 2024 Planning Commission meetings. Seconded by Mr. Streeter. There was no further discussion. Motion passed on voice vote with 6 ayes.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Annual Meeting business items of the Planning Commission were conducted as follows:

1. Review of the By-laws and suggested changes were considered. The suggested changes were agreed to and a motion to approve the amended by-laws as presented was made by Mrs. Ruitter and seconded by Mr. Meads. No further discussion was had. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote with six ayes.
2. Selection of Officers for 2025: Nominations for the officers for 2025 were as follows. Mr. Olen was nominated to continue serving as Chairperson and Mr. Streeter was nominated to serve as Vice Chairperson. Voice votes were taken, and both were approved unanimously with 6 ayes.
3. Mr. Meads moved to appoint Mr. Mason as the recording secretary, seconded by Mr. Finkbeiner. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously with six ayes.
4. Mr. Meads motioned to approve the 2025 meeting schedule as presented. Supported by Mr. Finkbeiner. No further discussion. Motion carried on voice vote with six ayes.
5. The 2024 Planning Commission Annual Report was presented for approval. Mrs. Ruitter made the motion to approve the annual report and forward to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Finkbeiner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote with six ayes.

Mr. Mason informed the Commission about the status of the Master Plan Project. Discussion was had about notifications, listening sessions, in-person interviews and discussions and a public survey. It was suggested that a sub-committee or task force/work groups be developed to assist with the development of the survey language and scheduling the listening sessions. Mr. Mason agreed that a task force would be beneficial in preparing these items for the project. Mr. Finkbeiner made a motion to set up two (2) task forces consisting of two Planning Commission members each and additional community stakeholders approved by the members of the task force to assist with preparing the notifications and scheduling the public sessions. The motion was supported by Mr. Meads. There was a brief discussion about how the notifications would take place and whether there is funding for the project. Hearing no further discussion, the vote occurred, and the motion passed unanimously with six ayes. An additional motion was presented by Mr. Meads to amend the 2025 Meeting Schedule to add March 11, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. to the schedule to accommodate approving the task force members and a schedule for task force operation. Mrs. Ruitter seconded the motion. Motion passed with six ayes on voice vote.

ACTION ITEM:

- Mr. Mason presented information regarding an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would allow the Planning Commission to amend the Ordinance without having to hold a public hearing for the proposed changes. This would only apply to the period that the interim ordinance is in effect. After April 29, 2027, the ordinance would no longer be interim, and the rules would have to follow the Zoning Enabling Act and the Planning Enabling Act. There was a substantial amount of discussion and input from members of the public. It was decided not to pursue any changes in ordinance language at this time, and to bring requests for Zoning Ordinance language changes to the Commission on a scheduled basis so that any proposed changes would be considered at the same time at regular intervals.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Marjorie Steele of Grant Twp. Commented that she thought the Zoning Ordinance should not be able to be amended without a public hearing so that the Township officials avoid any appearance of impropriety.

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no other business to attend to, Mr. Olen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Meads made the motion, and Mr. Olen adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

APPROVAL:

Action taken at the regular meeting of March 11, 2025: Motion to approve the Planning Commission minutes of February 18, 2025, by: Mr. _____. Supported by: Mr. _____. Motion carried unanimously with _____ ayes.

Brent Mason, Recording Secretary
Green Charter Township Planning Commission

March 11, 2025
Date Approved