

February 13, 2019

The regular meeting of the Portage Township Planning Commission was called to order by chair Melanie Watkins at 7:01 PM. Also present were Dave Rulison, Constance Sherry, John Ligon, Jeff Koski, Peggy Anderson and Bruce Peterson. Absent was Ted Soldan. Visitor was John Ollila.

Copies of the Portage Township Master Plan were handed out. The focus of this meeting was to discuss the updating of the Master Plan (MP) to include any changes which have taken place in the Township in the last five years.

John Ollila passed out information to PC members from the MSU Extension Service called "Check List # 1H: The Five-Year Plan Review" which is a step by step procedure for reviewing existing master Plans.

John Ollila encouraged us to include three major changes that have occurred recently including information on the Municipal Civil Infraction Ordinance, the Rental Ordinance and the Pilgrim River Watershed Project that has set aside property in the township along the river for public use. He will write up a review of the Pilgrim Watershed Project for the Master Plan.

In the ensuing discussion Bruce also mentioned including information on the damage and problems to the township resulting from the Father's Day Flood on June 17, 2018. Bruce will write that up. He also thinks that a new updated study needs to be done on Huron Creek and Peepsock Creek in view of the flooding damage that these creeks did to the infrastructure and properties in the township.

A Storm Water Ordinance is in the works, Melanie has been working on that, it was one of the recommendations in the old Master Plan. Progress on that ordinance will be included in the new Master Plan.

The legalized Marijuana law in Michigan and its impact on the township should also be included and an update on the Township's position on new marijuana related businesses in the township. Bruce will ask Bill Fink to write up a summary of that as Bill is knowledgeable about the issue.

The next Township meeting will again focus on updating the master plan, to that end Bruce recommended that we take home and read the old one. Peggy will look up and list new ordinances in the last five years. Connie will update information relating to the number of employees employed by the township's major businesses.

Peggy reviewed the terms of the present Planning Commission members and when they will expire, we are current on this at this time. She also noted that the reimbursement for each member is \$60 per meeting as of this meeting.

New meeting dates are April 4, June 6, and August 8 at 7:00 at the Township Office.

Peggy made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM and was seconded by Jeff.

Respectfully Submitted by Connie Sherry for Ted Soldan