

**ADA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2009 MEETING**

A meeting of the Ada Township Planning Commission was held on Thursday, July 16, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at the Ada Township Offices, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, Michigan.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Korth at 7:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Hoeks called the roll. Present: Chairperson Korth; Commissioners Butterfield (joined the meeting at 7:32 p.m.), Easter, Gutierrez, Hoeks, Lowry and Sytsma. Also present: Planning Director Ferro. Absent: None.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Gutierrez, second by Sytsma, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 18, 2009 MEETING

Motion by Sytsma, second by Hoeks, to approve the June 18, 2009 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS/STAFF

Korth stated that since the agenda is so light the Commission could spend some time going over projects and items the Commission needs to work on. Ferro stated he was hoping to have a draft of the zoning ordinance amendments, but he has not completed it at this time. He passed out the priority list adopted by the Commission several months ago, noting that the CIP is in process, and several of the zoning ordinance amendment tasks have been finished. He stated they still have not revised the political sign rules, and the property maintenance rules will be discussed at the upcoming work session meeting. Ferro noted that he feels that Master Plan implementation-related zoning ordinance changes should be high priorities for the Commission. He stated he would have a draft available at the August meeting.

Ferro next stated that Dick DeVos has submitted a Zoning Board of Appeals application appealing the decision that he is not permitted to land a helicopter on his property on the west side of Fox Hollow Ave., and he is asking for an interpretation of the rules that would permit him to land on that side of the road. He is asking for a variance in the event the interpretation is not favorable to him. This will be on the Zoning Board of Appeals' agenda for the August meeting. There is a possibility that one or more of the neighbors in that area may submit their own appeal regarding landing on the property on the east side of Fox Hollow Ave.

The Kent County Road Commission held a public hearing recently on whether or not the natural beauty road designation should be removed on Bailey Drive. The Township has requested this be removed because the Road Commission stated it is the only way they will permit a trail on Bailey Drive. Ferro went over some of the neighbors' views on this. Also, the Township has applied for a wetland permit for various locations along the proposed trail route. Neighbors have requested a DEQ public hearing on this – a date has not been set yet. Ferro stated this will further delay the start of trail construction, at least on Conservation Street. There was Commission discussion on removal of the natural beauty road designation and construction of trails. Ferro stated that easements are a possible alternative.

Ferro next spoke about the upcoming work session meeting and passed out packets of materials. Included in the packet are the minutes from the three Township Board meetings regarding property maintenance rules. He spoke about building code regulations in relation to property maintenance rules and how this affects health and safety issues. They also discussed the International Property Maintenance Code.

Ferro mentioned the new Ada Farmer's Market noting that information is available on their website at www.adafarmersmarket.com.

Sytsma spoke about a comment made at the last Open Space Task Force meeting. She stated that in cases where conservation easements are acquired by the Township, the conservation easement restrictions should require that the property comply with the Township's riparian protection standards.

Ferro commented on the capital improvements plan status. Hoeks stated he would like Ferro to provide members with copies of the City of Holland's wind energy regulations.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Easter, second by Lowry, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk
rs:lm