

## **PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES - JUNE 17, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Walt Mixon, Rod Lowe, Jenny Irvine, Victor Senk, & Christine Lundquist. (Phil Bontrager was absent but had notified the chairperson that he would be out of town.)

**AGENDA:** Jenny noted that the “special” meeting was an error. The corrected agenda was approved on a motion by Christine with support by Victor.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of May 20 were reviewed. Two corrections were noted in the public comment section. The first related to the spelling of Vanderlaan. The 2nd was to replace the word “maintained” with “retained” in the discussion of the R-1 district. The corrected minutes were approved on a motion by Paul with support by Rod.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None at this time.

**ZONING ORDINANCE DRAFT & ENFORCEMENT:** Jenny expressed concern and some frustration regarding the time being put into the ordinance and questioned how well it would actually be enforced. She noted that she understood Au Train Township has a civil infraction ordinance that might be worth reviewing. Christine noted the civil infraction ordinance was not the purview of the Planning Commission. Jon Babbit indicated he would call Autrain to request a copy for Burt Township to use as a reference. Discussion ensued regarding Zoning Administrator duties vs health department and other agencies. It was noted that several months ago there had been discussion about the possibility of needing additional personnel to assist with some duties (e.g. periodic visits to ST rental properties).

Jenny noted that we need to start working on the recreation plan ASAP. She introduced Emily Soucy from CUPAD, who had joined the meeting via zoom. Emily reviewed the process and probable timeline involved, including a community survey, data gathering, processing survey results, public review, and public hearing. Motion by Paul with support by Walt to contract with CUPAD to work on the recreation plan. Motion carried.

The Township Board will be having a special meeting on June 24th. Jon Babbit indicated they will add discussion of the CUPAD contract and survey to the agenda. The prior survey was quickly reviewed. It was agreed to add a question about harbor restoration. An effort will be made to include the survey in the summer tax bills as well as posting it on the Township website and putting an add in the local paper. We will ask for surveys to be returned by August 7, 2025. It will be at least mid August before survey results are likely to be processed, so the July & August meetings will concentrate on the zoning ordinance.

Discussion regarding the Pictured Rocks National Park's response to questions related to the Inland Buffer Zone were discussed. Christine suggested we proceed with whatever we consider appropriate unless they provide something more definitive.

Based on the time, Jenny suggested ending this discussion for today.

**OTHER:** Jenny asked Victor to discuss the recent seminar he attended related to planning commissions. He reviewed several points he recently emailed to Commission members

It was suggested that we consider adding a definition of "recreational use" in article 2 and consider if we should differentiate private vs commercial recreational use.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dave Turtan discussed wind energy options and companies providing smaller units that could be appropriate in residential areas. He had information on a company called Agathon that he will give to Jenny to share with the commission members. He would like to see the ordinance section on wind power written to allow these options.

It was agreed the next meeting will be on July 15th at 6:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Christine with support by Paul.