

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY DECEMBER 18, 2023

MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER - Meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.
- II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM – Horney, Greenwald, Iwanicki, Oliver present. Barbu absent. Quorum obtained. Zoning Administrator, Nanney present.
- III. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA – Horney moved and Oliver seconded to approve the agenda. Approved by unanimous vote.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Moved by Oliver, seconded by Horney to approve the both the October 16, 2023 minutes and the November 20, 2023 minutes. Approved by unanimous vote.
- V. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – None.
- VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None scheduled.
- VII. OLD BUSINESS – None.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS –
 - A. Agenda items up for discussion: Zoning Ordinance Articles 4.0, 5.1, and 5.2. Moved by Iwanicki, seconded by Horney to table discussion for now. Passed by unanimous vote.
 - B. Election of officers – Moved by Oliver, seconded by Iwanicki, to re-elect Dave Horney as Planning Commission Chairman. Approved by unanimous vote. Moved by Oliver, seconded by Horney, to re-elect Mark Iwanicki as Vice Chairman. Approved by unanimous vote. Moved by Oliver, seconded by Iwanicki to re-elect Bonnie Greenwald as Secretary. Approved by unanimous vote.
 - C. Set the meeting schedule for 2024 – As follows: 1/15, 3/18, 4/15, 5/20, 6/17, 8/19, 9/16, 10/21, 11/18, 12/16. No meetings in February and July. Moved by Oliver, seconded by Horney to approve the schedule. Passed by unanimous vote.
 - D. Commercial energy ordinance – Ramifications of the state legislature’s recently passed law to strip local control of natural resources was discussed. Concerns included Michigan utility companies desire to receive approval for establishing solar and wind farms in rural areas, with likely approval of the State Public Service Commission. Bridgewater Township is committed to maintaining its rural character. Agriculture is essential for food production, which is essential for sustaining life and livelihoods. Proposals by utility companies have been to take acres out of farmland to build solar and wind farms. With the end goal of reducing fossil fuel usage,

members agreed vacant land in urban areas is a much better alternative to removing agricultural land. The regulations will go into effect in November 2024.

- IX. COMMUNICATIONS – Nanney reported a webinar by the Michigan Townships Association is scheduled for January. The MTA lobbied to prevent passage by the legislature. This webinar will be informational, and to strategize township alternatives.
- X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – Nanney reiterated the importance of contacting legislators regarding the solar and wind farm issue, since it won't go into effect until November 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm

APPROVED