

Almont Township

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ALMONT TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 8, 2011

The regular meeting of the Almont Township Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Vice-Chairman Streeter, at the Almont Township Hall, 819 N. Main Street, Almont, Michigan. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT, Jean Gross, Kim Streeter, Dennis Sweers and Bryan Zender. Also present: Brian Wilson of Community Planning & Management, PC.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Fred Hunter, and Mark Lauwers. Steve Francis arrived at 7:02 PM

ALSO PRESENT: 2 guests

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was presented.

MINUTES: MOVED BY GROSS AND SUPPORTED BY ZENDER TO RECEIVE THE APRIL 13, 2011 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: N/A.

LATE AGENDA ITEMS: N/A

INTRODUCTIONS: N/A

PUBLIC HEARING: N/A

OLD BUSINESS: #1. Farm Markets (Ag/Commercial Districts)

Vice-Chairman Streeter relinquished the meeting over to Chairman Francis. Chairman Francis asked the Commissioners for their opinions on the proposed draft. Lengthy discussion followed on the proposed draft as well as on the necessity to make any amendments at all. Consensus of the Commissioners present noted that they had no problems with road side stands but felt that the extra activities that are sometimes present with such operations may be distracting and more of a commercial use and less of a farm related use.

Supervisor Bowman noted that the Right to Farm Act was amended and now includes "Farm Markets" and its related activities such as hayrides, selling of baked goods and other food products, haunted barns/houses/trails, pick your own, dairies,

OLD BUSINESS: #1. Farm Markets (Ag/Commercial Districts) Continued:

weddings, play-scapes, wineries, festivals, cider mills, etc. The township's current zoning ordinance does not allow for farm practices in its commercial and industrial zoned districts. The question is whether or not the Planning Commission believes that the zoning ordinance should be amended to include farming and all its approved operations in those districts or leave the zoning as is.

Commissioner Zender left the meeting at 8:07 PM and returned at 8:08 PM.

After reviewing the proposed amendments that would allow for Agri-Business (Value Added Farming Operations), and after careful consideration of what the Right-to-Farm Act as amended allows, the consensus of the Planning Commissioners agreed that amending the ordinance to allow farming and all of its related and approved activities in commercial and industrial zoned districts may not be in the best interest of the Township; and therefore would recommend to the Township Board that the proposed amendments not be made to the Zoning Ordinance at this time.

#2. Master Plan Update:

The Planning Commissioners reviewed the draft copy of the Master Plan Survey. Several suggestions were made which the Planner, Mr. Wilson, agreed to add to the draft copy. A new draft copy will be forwarded to the Commissioners via e-mail for their review and comments.

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

REPORTS:

Planner: N/A

Engineer: N/A

Zoning Board of Appeals: N/A

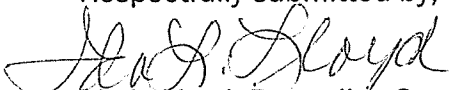
Zoning & Building: April and May Building & Zoning reports were submitted.

General Comments: N/A

Proposed Agenda: Due to a lack of agenda items, the July meeting was canceled.

MOVED BY SWEERS AND SUPPORTED BY ZENDER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:55 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by,


Ida L. Lloyd, Recording Secretary