

The quarterly meeting of the Portage Township Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 by chair Rob Witting. Present were Rob, Bernie Carr, Ted Soldan, John Ligon, Peggy Anderson, and Melanie Kueber Watkins. There were three visitors -- Bruce Petersen, Pat Coleman, and Barbara LaFex Lewis.

A motion was made by Bernie to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Rob and passed.

Chair Rob Witting turned the meeting over to the public for comments.

A member of the Houghton County Planning Commission was present and shared her experiences with their master plan process. She said she was surprised by the large number of negative comments at the public meeting prior to adoption of their master plan. Many in the audience were opposed to zoning.

Bernie asked the commission to look at page 22 of the master plan, paragraph 5, regarding the statement about township water in the Royalwood subdivision. He said the entire neighborhood was surveyed regarding a municipal water supply, and the residents surveyed were opposed to the idea by a 3-2 margin. Supervisor Peterson responded that the township was approached by David Wong and 4 other property owners to install a 6" line and 2 hydrants for approximately \$100,000. The funding would not come from the rural development fund, but they were looking into the best way to do the funding. Were the project to be funded by rural development, hookup by all property owners would be mandatory.

Bernie pointed out that on page 27 under Public Transportation where "Indian Trails" was mentioned that bus service be added for clarification.

Bernie also drew attention to page 44 under the bulleted list, that "mixed use" was not listed and should be.

He also suggested that figure 3-2, Fair Gravel Source seemed to contradict figure 8-2. After some discussion, the commission determined that figure 3-2 was a map showing sources of gravel, where figure 8-2 was zoning. Due to Michigan law, the township can't stop gravel extraction, but it can regulate it.

There was discussion about a letter John Ojilla sent the commission expressing concerns about the interaction between CFA lands and zoning. After some discussion, the commission felt that CFA designation lands and zoning of the lands are separate issues.

Bernie made a motion to adopt the resolution (see attached) approving the master plan subject to the minor editorial changes suggested at the 10/23/13 meeting. Soldan seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposition. The resolution was signed by the chair and secretary and given to Pat Coleman.

Peggy Anderson made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Bernie Carr and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Soldan".

Ted Soldan, Secretary

Public Hearing
for Master
Plan

who

- 1 Bruce Pletzen
- 2 Peggy Lee Anderson
- 3 TED SOLDAN
- 4 Bernie Carr
- 5 ~~Phil~~
- 6 John Ligow
- 7 Barbara LaFey Lewis
- 8 Pat Coleman UFEA
- 9 Melanie Watkins

**Planning Commission
Charter Township of Portage**

Resolution approving a Master Plan

WHEREAS, The Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Portage has prepared a new Master Plan that will serve as a guide for decision-making and future land use in the Township, and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan includes a community profile of the Township, a description of natural features and resources, a description of existing land use, and community facilities/services, and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan was developed with community involvement that included an opinion survey and several public open house meeting events, and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan includes goals, objectives and a Future Land Use plan that responds to community input.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Portage hereby approves the Master Plan and recommends adoption by the Township Board.

This resolution was approved by an affirmative vote of the Planning Commission following a public hearing held on October 23, 2013

Secretary

Chairman