

**Portage Township Planning Commission**  
**Minutes, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting, March 14, 2024**

Present: Stein, Cronin, Soldan, Anderson, Griffis

Absent: Boerman excused due to illness

Public Present: Ollila; Don McClean (River Trails)

- 1. Meeting called to order by Soldan at 5:00pm**
- 2. Amendments to agenda,**
  - Soldan: Adding Don McClean River Trails update after the approval of the minutes.
  - Motion to approve agenda as amended by Griffis, seconded by Anderson. Carried.
- 3. Review of January 25 Minutes**
  - Under point 2, bullet 3 should read “changes are adopted”
  - Item 8, change from 6pm to 5pm.
  - Motion to accept January 14 minutes as amended by Anderson, seconded by Griffis. Carried.
- 4. Don McClean gave an update on the River Trails project.**
  - Discussion of issues pertaining to well water and regulatory delays.
  - McClean requests a letter of support from the Planning Commission stating the action that has been taken by the PC to this point.
  - **Motion to appoint Russ and Adam to draft a letter of support by Griffis, seconded by Russ. Motion carried.**
- 5. Zoning ordinance update given by Ollila.**
  - 12.2; 4.f.ii should be stricken.
  - Need to add permitting to ZO for chickens or be handled through the Township Board as a separate ordinance,
  - Irizzary soccer fields for sale.
  - What are the criteria that trigger inclusion of stormwater management plan? Township Board has updated Stormwater Ordinance, and it is correct.
  - Should a permit be required for new business use of a building?
  - RUR, R-4 allow multifamily housing. If multiple duplexes are built is that multifamily housing?
  - Municipal Civil Infraction Ordinance to be used as ZO enforcement?
  - Contacted OHM about getting a consultant to review existing ZO.
  - Soldan has been conducting research to find a consultant to conduct Technical Review of ZO and getting quotes.
  - **Motion to appoint Anderson and Cronin to investigate consultants further and share results at the next meeting by Griffis, seconded by Stein. Motion carried.**
- 6. Renewable Energy Permitting in Michigan presented by Soldan**
  - Soldan will be asking the County Planning Commission to also adopt an identical CREO. CREO may not be more restrictive than state law.
- 7. No public comments**
- 8. Motion to Adjourn by Griffis, seconded by Anderson. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:41pm**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Will Cronin, Secretary**