

GARDEN TOWNSHIP MICHIGAN
GARDEN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 14, 2024

Meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7 pm by Chair Person Frank Williams.

Present: Jodi Williams, Tom Lang, Jenna Silkworth, Frank Williams, Joe Maki.

Absent: Rosemarie DeVora.

Additions to Agenda - Establish meeting dates for fiscal year 2024-2025
- Discussion of office records book for Planning Commission

Jenna made the motion, supported by Jodi to establish that the meeting dates and times for the fiscal year of 2024-2025 be as follows: they are to take place on the second Thursday of each month at 7 pm: April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12 for the year 2024, and January 9, February 13, March 13 of 2025. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion passed.

Discussion of the records book for the Planning Commission that is maintained by the Township Clerk: the record book must contain a copy of the agenda for each meeting as well as the signed, approved of version of the minutes for each meeting. A written list was given to the Zoning Administrator of the missing agendas, he will supply the missing agendas. A written list will be emailed to the Secretary of which meeting minutes need signatures and for consideration of whether they are the correct/approved version of said minutes; a hard copy of the minutes from each meeting that is in question and are currently in the record book will be included for the secretary's review and consideration.

Minutes from the February 8th meeting were not provided and no minutes were approved.

Garden Township's Assessor/Zoning Administrator presented the monthly Assessor's/Zoning Report.

Garden Township Assessor/Zoning Administrator provided information on two zoom presentations that he attended recently; one by Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Service, one by Michigan Township Association (MTA). According to the MTA our important next steps are:

1. Consult with our township attorney and planner, these issues are complicated and not every one agrees on interpretation
2. Decide whether we want to follow MPSC (Michigan Public Service Commission), CREO (Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance), or "workable" (which is working out a plan with each individual solar energy project that is proposed)

The Zoning Administrator has had a phone conference with the Planning Commission Chair Person, the Garden Township Supervisor, and the Township's Attorney. It has been advised by the attorney to hold off at least until May before resuming work on the Solar Energy Ordinance to see if there are enough signatures on circulating petitions throughout the state looking to put a

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proposal on the November ballot to overturn the recently approved state law that has taken away the control of local government to make their own zoning ordinances in regards to solar energy.

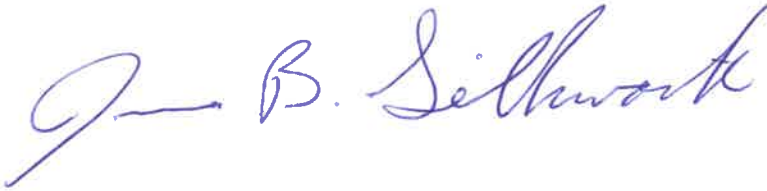
The Zoning Administrator presented an email correspondence from Bradely Neumann of MSU Extension Service providing a list of six different companies that could help draft a Master Plan. The Zoning Administrator will contact all six companies requesting proposals to prepare Garden Township's Master Plan.

A Planning Commission member received a complaint by a citizen about a property with trailers on it that now has a contained septic system, and felt that they may be in violation of building codes. Zoning Administrator will talk with the property owner and update Planning Commission accordingly.

There was no Public Comment.

A motion was made by Jenna, seconded by Frank to adjourn. Ayes: 4, Nays: 0. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned ant 7:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jenna Silkworth

Garden Township Clerk & Ex Officio Planning Commission Member.