

Escanaba Township Planning Commission Meeting

April 4, 2022 7:30 pm Escanaba Township Hall

4618 Co 416 20th Rd Gladstone, MI 49837 906-786-6200

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm by Chairperson Dean VanLoon followed by recital of the Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson VanLoon welcomed new member to the Planning Commission, Nathan Neumeier. *to a 3yr term, thru 12-4-2023*

Roll call. Members present: Chairperson Dean Van Loon, Members, Theresa Chenier, Larry Klope, Nathan Neumeier. Absent *cmc*
excused: Greg Faust. 4 present members represent a valid quorum to proceed.

Mr. VanLoon announced that the Planning Commission is seeking 2 more people to join the Commission. Please contact Supervisor Rymkos if you are interested in serving your township.

Motion to approve February 7, 2022 minutes with corrections was made by L.Klope. Second T.Chenier. All are in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Motion to approve March 7, 2022 minutes was made by N.Neumeier. Second by L.Klope. All members are in favor. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Fred Minor

Motion to approve agenda made by N. Neumier. Second by T. Chenier. All members are in favor. Motion passed.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: Al Gareau said there were permits out. It is getting pretty busy. They are for a couple new homes and a couple out buildings. Chairperson Van Loon would like the permits to be passed by the Planning Commission before being given back to the requester. This may help offset any issues that may arise.

T.Chenier gave the Board Liaison report of the Feb 14, 2022 Board meeting. Fire Dept was voting in officers. Fire Chief Ledesma is resigning. Patricia Beauchamp served the township for 30 plus years. She has retired. The Planning Commission members will be receiving \$10 per hour for training sessions.. The annual budget hearing was conducted. A new counter was installed in the office. The Board voted to not become a charter township at this time. The Future Land Use Map was approved by the Board. Verso Grow in the township was discussed. The County has maps on their website for the new redistricting in the area.

OLD BUSSINESS: Nathan Neumeier was welcomed. Clerk, Chenier will give him training packet and webinar training information that is needed.

Commission received replies back from attorney on questions regarding the proposed draft solar ordinance. Dean read aloud the proposed DRAFT. Each member was given a copy of proposed draft ordinance. Draft was reviewed and discussed. It was decided there still needs to be additional clarifications. Chairperson VanLoon instructed the members to compile more questions for the attorney. It was decided to wait until the Draft has corrections addressed before posting on the township website. Balance of discussion was tabled at 8:57pm until next meeting. Soil depth and water quality issues are the most important concerns when deciding on the solar overlay. By using 1000 kilowatts a year per household with 1500 households is 1.5 megawatts per year for our township consumption. 1 megawatt per 7 acres would require approximately 10 – 11 acres dedicated to provide solar produced electricity for our township. At the next meeting there will be maps showing areas of concern and consideration for solar overlay.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Fred Minor, Dan Robitaille

Motion to adjourn made by L.Klope. Second by T. Chenier. All in favor. Motion passed to adjourn at 9:28pm.

Next meeting of the Escanaba Township Planning Commission is scheduled for May 2, 2022 at 7:30 pm at the Escanaba Township Hall 4618 Co 416 20th Rd Gladstone. MI 49837. Call 906-280-6182 if you require assistance to attend a meeting.