

Milton Township
Planning Commission
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2023

Members present: Chairman Hefferan, Renis, Peters, Warner, Standerfer, Ford, and Merillat.

Also present: Kopriva and two audience members.

Hefferan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Agenda:

Add Election of Officers under New Business, A.

Motion by Ford to approve agenda as modified. Seconded by Renis. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes dated November 17, 2022:

Minutes approved as presented by **unanimous consent.**

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

A. Election of officers for 2023:

Standerfer nominated Hefferan for Chair. Seconded by Warner. Nominations closed. **Motion** by Ford to elect Hefferan as Chair. Seconded by Warner. **Motion carried.**

Hefferan nominated Ford for Vice Chair. Seconded by Merillat. Nominations closed. **Motion** by Merillat to elect Ford as Vice Chair. Seconded by Renis. **Motion carried.**

Warner nominated Standerfer as Secretary. Seconded by Peters. Standerfer nominated Merillat as Secretary. Seconded by Ford. Nominations closed. **Motion** by Renis to elect Merillat as Secretary. Seconded by Ford. **Motion carried.**

B. Annual Report:

Kopriva discussed the annual report for the Township Board indicating what you have accomplished in 2022 and what you want to accomplish in 2023. Kopriva does not have anything specific to accomplish in 2023 except for the completion of the master plan process. Renis asked if we had public hearings for the ordinance changes. Kopriva said that can be clarified and be listed under both ordinances and public hearings. Steep slopes committee will be added to goals or things to work on in 2023. Update Bobb Ford's name. Add Standerfer as a member.

Motion by Renis to accept the annual report and send to the Township Board with the discussed

changes. Seconded by Ford. **Motion carried.**

C. Master Plan Review:

Kopriva reviewed the following draft chapters: Natural Features, Community Facilities, Economic Development.

Discussing Natural Features: Ford said he has a lot of clay on his property and looking at the different categories of soil, it does not show much of that. Is that correct? That information comes from a soil survey from the state, according to Kopriva. She will take another look at it. Under Water Quality, Torch Lake has an algae problem. If it is a water quality problem, does it belong there? Ford said this is a golden-brown algae. Kopriva will review that as well. Merillat asked if there is a table of contents for review? Kopriva said she will provide it by the next meeting. Merillat said there are statements that are recommendations in the text and repeated as bullet points in the Natural Features chapter, but the rest of the chapters do not have the bullet points. Perhaps those statements may be best in recommendations as opposed to interspersed through the document. Kopriva discussed the process and how it could work with these points and recommendations. Merillat brought up the statement about septic suitability. The link provided shows our area is red and not viable for septic at all. Is there a reason to have that in here at all? Kopriva will review this.

Discussing Community Facilities: Merillat asked if it says we have a park plan? Kopriva will add this. Ford asked about medical facilities in Elk Rapids, which are not included. Renis noted in the discussion of fire stations that we have two stations in Milton Township. Renis asked for clarification on the names of the waterfront parks. He also asked that the skate park and pickle ball courts are included. Ford recommended adding the assisted living establishments in Elk Rapids including Cherry Suite, Noble Pines, and South Torch Assisted Living. Hefferan asked if this draft was on the website. Kopriva said this could be placed on the website. If you want to make it easier to be available to the public now, she would need direction from the commission to make it happen. Commission members suggested we wait until we have a more complete draft. Merillat asked about broadband options and the listed speeds, which are reversed. Hefferan said the county may be able to give more accurate information on this.

Discussing Economic Development: Merillat said South Torch Village should be included in the discussion along with Kewadin Village. Both are village zoned. Merillat said table XX does not make sense. Kopriva will review this table. Merillat said on page 4, there is commentary on bed and breakfasts, which should be a recommendation at the end. We talk about regulating farm markets and I do not know that should be a part of this chapter. It seems like we are missing a boat launch under Water based recreation: Torch River Bridge; Elk Lake; East Elk Lake Drive; NW Torch. Merillat asked if we need to mention these here or if they belong in another section. Merillat asked if we should expand development along Cherry Avenue instead of up Carin Highway since the Village Zone goes down Cherry Ave. Kopriva said this could go into Future Land Use.

Reports:

ZA Report:

Kopriva said there is no additional report.

Township Board Report:

Renis gave an update on the Waring Road Boat Launch. Taxable value will go up the maximum allowed. Chris Weinzapfel is our new Township Supervisor.

ZBA Report:

Hefferan said they have not met.

Future Meeting Considerations:

February 1, 2023 agenda items are:

By Law Review.

Master Plan Review.

Hefferan asked Kopriva about Steep Slopes. She will be getting this committee back together.

Meeting adjourned by order of the chair at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Merillat