

MINUTES OF THE SPARTA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Regular Meeting of August 11, 2020, 7 PM
Sparta Civic Center, 75 N. Union St., Sparta MI
& Virtual Via Zoom Media

Present: Chairperson Terry Hartman; Township Clerk Marcy Savage;
Commissioners Linda Anderson, Don Doyle, Tim Driscoll, Ken Humphreys,
and Mark VanderWerff

Also Present: Township Supervisor Dale Bergman; Associate Planner Emma M. Posillico, AICP,
of Fresh Coast Planning; Attorney Clifford H. Bloom of Bloom Sluggett, P.C.;
IT Host Ken Shangle; and Recording Secretary Toni Potes

I. / II. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Hartman called the meeting to order at
7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Additions or Corrections to Agenda: The July 14, 2020, Minutes were not available for
approval. Approval of the Minutes is postponed until the next meeting.

IV. Minutes of July 14, 2020, Regular Meeting: Approval postponed until the next meeting.

V. Public Comment: The public could participate in the meeting through Zoom access by computer
using the link <https://zoom.us/j/3220076269?pwd=YTJpeERmZzh0bm9JcG9jb2Z5aU1JZz09>, meeting
ID #322 007 6269, passcode 0T4RgN: Rob Steffens of 4244 13 Mile Road updated the
Commission on a project that will be completed this week, including pine and evergreen
trees.

VI. Business Items

A. Public Hearing for Proposed Text Amendment to Zoning Ordinance—Proposed
revisions to Section 2.2 (Definitions) and Section 8.13 (Migrant Farm Labor
Housing): Associate Planner Posillico reviewed the updates from the July 2020 meeting;
the matter of mobile homes was addressed.

Public Hearing opened at 7:04 PM

Alvera Hernandez of 1945 Alpine Ave. received notice in the mail and wanted clarification
for removal of the term “migrant”. She pointed out that farming goes longer than April to
November sometimes. She questioned who inspects the housing and quality, which is
currently the State of Michigan; is there a need for year-round housing; and is someone
wanting to build an apartment complex.

Rob Steffens had called Craig Anderson, who said this issue (setbacks) comes before a lot
of townships, and that 500 ft. setback is common. Fire trucks might have a problem. Well,
septic and power should be considered. Chester has 10 ft. setbacks. Too much setback

may cause problems for well and septic placement. He wants to be as lenient as possible, like 50 ft. stay off the road. The current proposal matches Alpine.

Eva Alvarez, via Zoom, Public Policy Coordinator and DOJ Accredited Representative of the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, voiced concerns which included removal of the term "migrant", which might mean no inspection. She asked that the matter be tabled so that the document can be looked over.

Public Hearing closed at 7:35 PM

Motion by Savage, second by VanderWerff, to recommend the proposed ordinance to the Sparta Township Board for approval. Roll call vote: Driscoll, yea; Doyle, yea; Humphreys, yea; Savage, yea; VanderWerff, yea; Anderson, yea; Hartman, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Old Business: Discussion of Planning Commission Bylaws (2015, 1995): The following changes are to be made to the draft by Attorney Bloom for consideration at the next meeting:

Section 3, Item D. shall include language regarding media attendance by members. Attorney Bloom will find language to add.

Section 3, Item E.5. is redundant.

Section 4, Item C. shall be that a majority of the Planning Commission membership (not quorum present) is required to pass a motion or adopt a resolution.

Section 8 Annual Report shall be omitted.

C. New Business: None.

VII. Public Comment: None.

VIII. Adjournment: Motion by Driscoll, second by VanderWerff, to adjourn at 8:08 PM. Motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Sparta Township Planning Commission will be Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
—Toni Potes, Recording Secretary