

Minutes of the Sparta Township Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting of January 12, 2021  
Sparta Civic Center, 75 N. Union St., Sparta, MI  
Conducted via Zoom Media

**Present:** Chairperson Terry Hartman, Commissioners Linda Anderson , Don Doyle, Tim Driscoll, Ken Humphreys, Barb Johnson and Mark VanderWerff.

**Also Present:** Township Supervisor Bergman, Board Members Bill Goodfellow and Rob Steffens, Attorney Bloom, Planner Lindsay Mohr of Fresh Coast Planning, and Recording Secretary Jan Redding

**I./II. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairperson Hartman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**III. Additions or Corrections to Agenda:** None

**IV. Minutes of December 8, 2020 Regular Meeting:** motion by Doyle to approve minutes as presented. Second by Johnson. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote. .

**V. Public Comment:** None

**VI. Business Items**

**A. Public Hearing for Proposed Text Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance**

1. Section 2.2 (Definitions)

2. Section 8.13 (Migrant Farm Labor Housing)

VanderWerff informed the commissioners that the State of Michigan has not finalized the regulations (GAAMPS) being developed that will apply to farm labor housing. The public hearing was opened.

Bill Goodfellow opposes limiting employment to the farm where the worker resides. Also, supports the use of trailers for housing.

Jeff Vanderwerff agreed with Goodfellow and also opposed the requirement that workers be employed within 6 miles of the farm where they reside.

Rob Steffens would like housing to be allowed in AG 1 and AG 2 zone districts.

There was discussion of the comments, and also written comments, received by the Commission. It was the consensus of those commenting that restrictions on distance of employment from residence is not relevant, and that section should be revised.

Motion by Doyle, second by Humphreys to table this item. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

**B. Meeting Schedule**

Motion by Anderson to approve the meeting schedule for 2021, Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month. Second by Doyle. Motion carries with unanimous roll call vote.

**C. Planned Unit Development Ordinance Discussion**

The regulations for Planned Unit Developments in Articles 11 and 12 of the Zoning Ordinance were reviewed and possible changes discussed. Planner Mohr will provide examples of zoning regulations from neighboring communities prior to the next meeting. Attorney Bloom explained how changes might affect new projects, and which regulations would apply, depending on the timing of the application.

**D. Public Comment**

Jon Bitely questioned the status of an application for mining permits that were associated with the

Hidden Prairie development. Construction on the property has been halted due to a referendum. Attorney Bloom explained a new application will need to be submitted as the Planning Commission has no authority to approve a mining operation without one.

**VII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Redding, Recording Secretary