

MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP

PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT - 2020

Introduction

The Planning Commission is responsible for oversight of Zoning and Planning in Michigamme Township by working with the Zoning Administrator and the Michigamme Township Board. The Zoning Board of Appeals is an ad hoc group that only meets for issues that cannot be resolved otherwise or for issues that are only under their purview. All members of these commissions serve on a voluntary basis and their participation in this vital activity is much appreciated. Robert DellAngelo previously served as Zoning Administrator, and his contributions to this township in the areas of zoning administration and planning have been extensive and the Commission thanks him for his service.

Members of the Planning Commission are:

Joel Johnson (until 2022), Emma Murphy (until 2023), Janice Anderson (until 2023), Ruth Starr (until 2022), and Julia Anderson-Leake (Board Representative until November 20, 2024).

Zoning Administrator: Jason McCarthy

Members of the Zoning Board of Review: Gregory Murphy, Paul Olson, and Janice Anderson

Meetings: The Planning Commission meets monthly, usually on the second Thursday of the month, unless there is no business to conduct. However, meeting times have been adjusted to meet the schedules of the members. In 2020, the Planning Commission met 7 times.

Master Plan:

The Planning Commission is in the process of rewriting the Master Plan. The plan is over 5 years old and must be updated. A copy has been sent to CUPPAD as well as to our Redevelopment Readiness Community (RRC) contact person for their input and review.

Zoning Ordinance Amendments:

All Zoning Ordinances are being reviewed and rewritten, and ordinances for use of alternative energy sources are being added. Zoning Districts, Signage, and Parking Ordinances have drawn particular attention, given that the current Zoning Ordinances do not specifically address the issues relevant to Michigamme Township. All ordinances will be written to match the goals and objectives in our Master Plan.

Zoning Permits Issued:

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 the following Zoning Compliance Permits have been issued and approved:

1. Eric Spyra, 572 Cardinal Road, residential addition
2. Donald Kruschke, 106 Brown Road, sign permit
3. Mike and Marilyn Laur, 98 Green Road, greenhouse
4. Nathan and Heather Smith, 106 Green Road, outbuilding
5. Joseph Cox, 203 Main Street, storage shed
6. Johnnie and Tami Hillis, 654 Indian Lake Road, garage
7. Joseph and Kathleen Pepin, 294 Black Road, storage building
8. Rolf and Janice Anderson, 284 Black Road, greenhouse

Variances:

Zoning Board of Appeals met to review variance request from Randy and Sherry LeFebre. The request was denied on the basis that a complete site plan was not submitted.

Redevelopment Readiness Community (RRC) Certification:

Former Township Board member Robert DellAngelo has been our primary representative working toward RRC certification. A majority of the Planning Commission Board members have been RRC certified, as well as the Township Supervisor and several members of the Michigamme Township Board.

The RRC policies approved by the board are:

- Capital Improvement Plan
- Guide to Development Policy
- Board Recruitment Application, Expectations and Skill Sets
- Training Policies for All Boards

Zoning Map:

The Zoning Map for Michigamme Township has been reconfigured from a graphic to a color-coded format, which is easier to use. The Planning Commission is also in the process of reviewing whether any changes to the zoning map districts are warranted.

Training:

Robert DellAngelo attended two training sessions regarding planning and zoning.

Janice Anderson attended one training session regarding planning and zoning.

Potential Training Topics for the Coming Year:

The Planning Commission is in the process of developing a protocol for training for all boards based on needs for our township as recommended by RRC guidelines.

Joint Meetings:

The Planning Commission met twice with the Downtown Development Authority regarding zoning amendment issues. It is recommended by the RRC Guidelines that the Planning Commission meet jointly with the Michigamme Township Board at least once a year.