

Michigamme Township Planning Commission

2022 Annual Report

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Planning Commission is responsible for oversight of the Zoning and Planning in Michigamme Township. By working with the Zoning Administrator, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Township Board, and Board of Appeals the Planning Commission maintains the direction of the Zoning Plan. The Board of Appeals is an ad hoc committee that only meets for issues that cannot be resolved otherwise or for issues only under their purview. All members, aside from the Township Board liaison and the Planning Commission member assigned to the Board of Appeals, are chosen from applications taken from the community at large. The Township Supervisor chooses the appointees to recommend to the Township Board, who then vote on whom will serve. All members receive a stipend set by the Township Board. Their participation is vital and is much appreciated.

2. PURPOSE of this ANNUAL REPORT:

The Michigan Planning Enabling Act calls for an annual report which is reflected in our local By-Laws and supports the Master Plan. The information reported to the Township Board concerning the status of planning activities, including recommendations regarding actions by the legislative body related to planning and development. The Planning Commissions future priorities are the recreation plan, zoning and civil ordinances, master plan completion and township blight. Members of the Planning Commission are thanked for the continued service to Michigamme Township.

3. MEMBERSHIP:

For this annual 2022 report the members included are; member Ruth Starr (Appointed until 2022), Secretary John Terry McBride (Appointed until 2023) Chairperson Dr. Jolene KLumpp (Appointed until 2023) member Kay Frisk (Appointed until 2024) and Township Board Liaison Julia M.A. Leake (Appointed until 2024)
Board members David Niemi and Janice Anderson resigned on February 14, 2022

4. MEETINGS:

The Planning Commission meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m., unless there is no business to conduct. Meeting times and dates are adjusted for work sessions and to make sure there will be a quorum. The commission met for 12 regular meetings in 2022 and 5 work sessions.

5. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Jason McCarthy held this position until the Township Board decided not to renew his contract for the fiscal year. The position was advertised and the Township Board hired Erin Bertucci on April 1, 2022. Her intention was to stay until the following April but she resigned early, making her last day of employment November 13, 2022. Presently we have an open-ended advertisement for the position.

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6. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS:

After many years of service Paul Olson turned in his resignation to the Township Board in October of 2022. Since all members serve for a two-year appointment a posting for the openings was made. Applicants chosen for the appointments were Greg Murphy and Tammy Schultz. (Appointed until 1-1-25) The Planning Commission voted to have Kay Frisk as their member of choice for the Board of Review. This appointment will be voted on by the Township Board at the February 13, 2023 meeting.

7. MASTER PLAN:

The Planning Commission realizes the importance of the Master Plan and will be reviewing the current document chapter by chapter for additions, deletions, and changes. Until this is done and it is reviewed by CUUPAD the plan cannot be up for public review. Because the survey required is 5 years old the Planning Commission will update the questions and redo the public survey, although this process is not required.

8. ZONING ORDINANCES AND AMENDMENTS:

All Zoning Ordinances and Amendments must be reviewed by the township attorney and must coordinate with the Master Plan once adopted. The Planning Commission has worked specifically on language changes under ARTICLE V SIGNS. The proposed changes were done by the DDA per request of the Planning Commission. The proposed Small Animal and Container Ordinances were scripted by the Planning Commission and all three of the above mentioned are under review by the Township Attorney with permission from the Township Board.

The Planning Commission also completed their By-Laws on November 10, 2022. They were sent along to the county for filing and a copy was given to the Township Office.

9. BLIGHT:

The number one complaint via survey remains the continuing issue of blight throughout the township. The Planning Commission made a list of the top ten, as requested by the Zoning Administrator. Six dangerous buildings were listed so that the Supervisor could send letters to arrange for inspections, August 25, 2022.

10. SHORT TERM RENTAL APPLICATIONS:

There are currently 12 Short Term Rental Permits issued out of the 25 allowed in Michigamme Township.