

# MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

## 2023 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, Ordinance Enforcement Officer, the Township Board, and Board of Appeals, the Planning Commission maintains the direction of the Master/Recreational Plan. The Board of Appeals is an ad hoc committee that meets for issues that cannot be resolved otherwise or for issues only under their purview. All members, aside from the Township Board liaison and a Planning Commission member assigned to the Board of Appeals, are chosen from applications taken from the community at large. The Township Supervisor chooses the applicants to recommend to the Township Board, who then vote. 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 reelected in the local Township Bylaws 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 Commission's future priorities are the recreation plan, zoning and civil ordinances, and the master plan completion. Members of the Planning Commission are thanked for their continued service to Michigamme Township.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP:

For this annual 2023 report the members included are: Township Board Liaison Kathleen Frisk (appointed until 2024, Chairperson Marsha McBride (appointed until 2026) and Secretary Irene DeRoche (appointed until 2025).

All previous Planning Commission members resigned except for Ruth Starr whose term ended 2022.

### 4. MEETINGS:

The Planning Commission meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm., unless there is no business to conduct. Meeting times and dates are adjusted for work sessions and to ensure there will be a quorum. The commission met for 9 regular meetings in 2023 and numerous work sessions.

### 5. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

The position of Zoning Administrator was advertised and the Michigamme Township Board hired Mike Simula as the Zoning Administrator in March 2023.

### 6. ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

The position of Ordinance Enforcement Officer was advertised and the Township Board hired Joleen Dutcher in September 2023.

#### **7. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS:**

Members of the Board of Appeals serve for a two-year appointment. Active members that were appointed in 2022 are Greg Murphy and Tammy Schultz. Presently, a Planning Commission member for an appointment to the Board of Review is pending.

#### **8. MASTER PLAN**

The Planning Commission realizes the importance of the Master Plan and is currently in the process of updating the document. Plans are in the process for developing a new public survey for 2024.

#### **9. ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS**

All Zoning Ordinance Amendments must be reviewed and must coordinate with the Master Plan once it is adopted. The Solar Energy Ordinance was reviewed in 2023. The State of Michigan passed "The Clean Energy and Jobs Act" in November 2023. The planning commission no longer has authority over Solar energy and windmills.

#### **10. SHORT TERM RENTAL APPLICATIONS**

There are currently 6 Short Term Rental Permits issued out of 25 allowed in Michigamme Township.

#### **11. RECREATION PLAN**

The Michigamme Township Recreation Plan is valid by the State of Michigan for 2021-2026. The Park Grant has been approved. Construction should start in the Spring of 2024.

#### **12. TRAINING**

Planning Commission members are encouraged to attend educational training in 2024. Irene DeRoche attended the MTA conference on May 8, 2023 for 6 hours called "Breaking the Zoning Code."

#### **13. CONCLUSION**

Planning the future of our community through zoning and civil ordinances are an important part of ensuring that Michigamme Township continues to be safe, pleasant, and a prosperous environment for all citizens and visitors. The Planning Commission has made significant progress on achieving goals. These goals will become more clearly identified by working on and adoption of the Master Plan. The community will be better positioned to move forward fulfilling the vast potential of Michigamme Township.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michigamme Township Planning Commission