

**MONTCALM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
#3rd Floor Conference Room, Administrative Building
211 W. Main Street, Stanton, MI 48888

Members Present: Darin Dood
 John Johansen
 Chuck Hill
 Armon Withey
 Lonnie Smith
 Daniel Brant
 Chris Mark

Members Absent: Phil Kohn

Others Present Michelle Becker
 Brenda Taeter
 Elisabeth Waldon

Brenda Taeter called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Ms. Taeter stated she would accept nominations for the position of a chairperson. John Johansen placed the name of Chuck Hill into nomination with the support of Armon Withey.

Motioned by John Johansen, supported by Daniel Brant, to cast a unanimous ballot for Chuck Hill as chairman. Motion carried.

The meeting was then turned over to Chairman Hill, and he stated that he would accept nominations for the position of vice-chairperson. John Johansen placed the name of Darin Dood into nomination with the support of Daniel Brant.

Motioned by John Johansen, supported by Lonnie Smith, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Darin Dood as vice-chairman. Motion carried.

Chairman Hill stated he would accept nominations for the position of secretary. John Johansen placed the name of Daniel Brant into nomination with the support of Darin Dood.

Motioned by John Johansen, supported by Darin Dood, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Daniel Brant as secretary. Motion carried.

Motioned by Armon Withey, supported by Lonnie Smith, to approve the minutes from November 8, 2022. Motion carried.

John Johansen request the addition of Training for the public under new, item #3. Motioned by John Johansen, supported by Darin Dood to accept the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Secretary & Training Reports –No training reported; discussion about committee members training opportunities, Michelle will email the group the links to opportunities that have been suggested.

New Business – The Village of Howard City in Reynolds Township provided the 2022-2042 Downtown Development Plan. Motioned by John Johansen, supported by Armon Withey, to send a letter to the Village of Howard City thanking them for the opportunity to review the plan and that there are no comments or concerns. Motion carried.

The committee discussed the vacancy representing Economic, Tourism and Industry which was previously held by Rob Spohr. Mr. Spohr had previously indicated he would accept reappointment, but since that time, he has resigned from his position at Montcalm Community College as well as his position on Montcalm Economic Alliance. Brenda Taeter and Darin Dood, both members of the MEA, will do some research and report back to the committee.

Motioned by Chris Mark, supported by Armon Withey, to table the appointment until more research can be done. Motion carried.

The committee discussed the training sessions the Planning Commission has provided for many years to local municipalities; session were normally held in March and April at MCC on Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 p.m., with the first session covering general zoning or current issues and the second session on agriculture. John Johansen stated that last year, the second session on agriculture was delayed until May due to a scheduling conflict with the presenter from MSU, and the session only had seven in attendance. John also reminded the committee that Bloom & Sluggett have provided the first session training at no cost in the past. Darin is willing to contact Bloom & Sluggett and the committee discussed possibly sharing remote training opportunities for the second session.

Old Business – The committee discussed going out for bids on updating the General Plan, Brenda will update the RFP and discuss more with Dave Bee from WMRPC; Darin suggested also putting the RFP on Builders Exchange.

Public comments were offered. None were given.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

Motioned by Armon Withey, supported by Darin Dood, to adjourn at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Dood

Darin Dood, Secretary