TOWNSHIP OF STRONACH
(Manistee County)
2471 Main St RR3
Manistee Michigan,49660

Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes Draft for April 1, 2025

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Batzer at 7:10 p.m with Pledge of Allegiance by all present. Meeting was conducted in the meeting room rather than the main floor.

Members Present: Ted Batzer, Terry Lindeman, and Dan Landis. Members Absent: Phil Landis and Carl Lacki. Also Absent was Zoning Administrator Larry Thompson (but see below). The meeting was conducted as a three-member quorum with Phil Vadeboncoeur in the public audience.

Approved meeting agenda on motion by Mr. Lindeman, 2nd by Mr. Batzer, all approved, motion carried.

Approved minutes for March 4th meeting on motion by Mr. Lindeman, 2nd by Mr. Batzer, all approved, motion carried.

Under the agenda's "Communications," Item 2 of the agenda's Old Business was addressed in terms of Mr. Thompson's document copies he left with us as he had more pressing duties elsewhere. These were copies of cost recovery ordinances from several other townships for their fire departments. At this time, all we can do is review them before the next meeting and discuss them then. Mr. Lindeman also provided one more sample of that kind of ordinance from another township.

Phil V essentially reserved his public comments for later items on the agenda. But as there was no Zoning Administrator's Report, nor any Committee Reports, the next item to address was under Old Business, starting with a review of the Master Plan changes. Phil's input was certainly useful, and he does have one complete and clean hard copy of the 2013 Master Plan should we have to recreate it in order to update and otherwise modify it. Finding a digital copy in a word processing program would be very helpful as would access to the original graphics (i.e., photos and maps). Such may or may not be available through the Manistee County Planning Department, particularly if they were the ones who had our plan printed then. Secretary will call the County Planning Director (Katie Gruenberg) to discuss that. We need to focus on going through the Master Plan changes methodically at the next meeting or two to get a single marked up copy that the Secretary can follow to somehow effect those changes.

The meeting schedule for the rest of 2025, including a re-schedule of the missed February meeting, were discussed briefly. But with so few of us present, this was tabled until our next meeting. It was also noted that our May 6th meeting coincides with a special election day, and we'll have to conduct that meeting again in the meeting room.

Under New Business as ideas for Township improvement, Mr. Vadeboncoeur passed on to us from Phil Landis clearing brush and some larger trees and cleaning up Clay Bank Park. Mr. Batzer pointed out that to do so without aggravating other issues, like oak wilt disease, any such clearing should wait until September. And rather than using an ad hoc committee of volunteers for which there would be a liability issue from any injuries during that work, Mr. Vadeboncoeur assured us that the work would be contracted out to avoid such potential liability. And speaking of potential liability, the issue of the board walk to nowhere near/at the Stronach boat ramp and dock (remove it, flag it, or fence it off).

Still under New Business or as Other Business, the Secretary brought up an MTA workshop flyer that Mr. Vadeboncoeur had given him last week. Everyone appeared supportive of the Secretary attending the workshop in Gaylord on 21 May, but no motion was formally made about it. Mr. Vadeboncoeur suggested that it be brought up at the next Board of Trustees meeting (9 Apr) as part of a committee report then to seek funding approval. The fee for the workshop is $100, and three recent MTA publications on planning and zoning are priced at $114.75 for all three. We agreed and Mr. Vadeboncoeur concurred that one set of the books should be acquired for the Planning Commission. With approval at the BOT meeting, the Township Clerk can make the appropriate reservation with MTA.

Items for the next meeting's agenda will be much as it was for this meeting. That is, review of Master Plan changes, cost recovery ordinance, and meeting schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Daniel Landis, Secretary