

Burr Oak Township Planning Commission
April 15th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Matt Craven, Rick Ultz, Allen Kasdorf, Kevin Wickey, Tim Peterson

Guests Present: Jamie Crites, Tina Mitchell, Steven Mitchell, Lyndon Kelley

Call To Order: Commission Chair Kevin Wickey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Agenda: A motion was made by Ultz with second by Kasdorf to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion passed.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the January 15th, 2024 Planning Commission meeting were presented for review. A motion was made by Ultz, seconded by Craven, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

Chair's Report: Kevin Wickey led a discussion on the update to the township and county master plans. It was pointed out that a master plan is a policy statement and is not an enforceable legal document. The need for more clarity in the zoning ordinance was brought out, especially as it concerns operating home businesses. Craven called for more options for residential and commercial development, and Peterson echoed that concern and suggested this be added to the master plan goals and objectives. Ultz advocated for preserving agricultural uses throughout the township.

A motion was made by Kasdorf, seconded by Ultz, to submit no changes in our master plan, as well as goals and objectives, to the county master plan update. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Wickey then informed those present that the Yoder layer barn plan had been approved by the Michigan Dept. of Ag. and Rural Development. A fence boundary dispute was mentioned as was a denied permit by Safebuilt for a project on Kelley Rd.

Old Business

New Business:

Mitchell - The commission heard a request from the Mitchells to operate a clothing store at 66896 Burr Oak Rd. According to the ordinance, a special exception use permit is needed to operate a family business in a farm residence. Various conditions for this type of activity were discussed with the Mitchells.

A motion was made by Craven, seconded by Kasdorf, to table the vote pending an inspection report and site plan from the applicants. The vote to table failed.

After learning of the conditions for this operation to be approved the Mitchells dropped their request for a special exception use permit.

Crites - Jamie Crites presented himself at the meeting to seek information regarding the construction of a fence needed to keep deer away from his Christmas tree plantation. The secretary provided Mr. Crites with a permit application. Mr. Crites then informed the members that he intends to seek rezoning of his acreage from residential to ag. We advised him that the Board of Supervisors had to be involved in that process and provided him a list of steps to be undertaken.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Ultz, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.