

**MONTCALM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
M I N U T E S**

Monday, January 22, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Third Floor Conference Room  
Administrative Building

Members Present:                    Bruce Noll  
    John Johansen  
    S. Michael Scott  
    Franz Mogdis  
    Phil Lund  
    Don Smucker  
    Lonnie Smith

Members Absent:                    Pete Haines

Participating Members Present:    Don Lehman, Michigan State University Montcalm Extension

Others Present:                    Lisa Lund, Recording Secretary

**Call to Order**

Chairman Franz Mogdis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Franz Mogdis led the group in the Pledge.

**Roll Call**

Lisa Lund took roll call and announced a quorum present.

**Public Comments**

Chairman Mogdis opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

All handouts noted are on file with the Recording Secretary.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes (HANDOUT A).**

Motioned by Bruce Noll to approve the November 20, 2006 meeting minutes. Seconded by Don Smucker. Motion carried.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Motioned by S. Michael Scott to approve the agenda. Seconded by Lonnie Smith. Motion carried.

## Reports

### Recording Secretary

Lisa Lund reported that two pieces of correspondence were received for Planning Commission member information.

1. *Belvidere Township Master Plan*. Dated- November 20, 2006. (HANDOUT B). This correspondence provided notice that the Belvidere Township Planning Commission has recently initiated the development of a Master Plan. Further, it asks that the Montcalm County Planning Commission cooperate with Belvidere Township in the endeavor and comment as requested.
2. *Montcalm Conservation approval of PA 116 Farm Application Agreement – Betty Christensen of Edmore*. Dated- December 19, 2006. (HANDOUT C). This correspondence cc:'d to us noted that the Montcalm Conservation District Board of Directors reviewed the PA 116 application of Betty L. Christensen. John Johansen asked Lisa Lund to compose a letter to Ms. Christensen informing her that her PA 116 application should also come before the Planning Commission for review.

## Old Business

### General Plan Priorities Initial Status Report (HANDOUT D)

Franz Mogdis distributed a copy of the 16 Montcalm County Planning Commission Implementation Priorities to members. The priorities and updates are as follows:

<i>Priority Meeting Discussion Highlights</i>	<i>Action/ Next Steps Identified</i>
<b>1) Develop and implement communications/education plan for LUGs.</b> <b>2) Develop and implement communications/ education plan for general public.</b> The Planning Commission has secured land use educator funding. Don Smucker is hired and working in this role.	NA
<b>3) Prepare 5-10 Year Economic Development Plan.</b> The Michigan Economic Development Corporation should be approving a grant (up to \$30,000 with equal local match grant required) this month. A contract with the County should follow soon after by the anticipated date of March 1, 2007. This priority is also on the County's Economic Development & Physical Resources Committee workplan. The purpose is to identify all the assets and resources of various communities throughout Montcalm County to determine where long-term economic development efforts should be focused.	NA
<b>4) Establish Conference &amp; Visitors Bureau.</b> Today, Franz Mogdis met with Mike Moyle from AmeriInn and the Greenville Chamber of Commerce. A Conference and Visitors Bureau vote is being planned for February. If successful, it will provide \$50,000 annually in Montcalm County to promote tourism.	NA
<b>5) Prepare Countywide Transportation Plan.</b> The transportation committee will continue to meet in 2007. They decided not to seek a millage this year but they are looking toward August, 2008. A major focus this year will be on an education campaign to raise awareness about the need for and support of public transportation.	NA
<b>6) Develop Agricultural Protection Plan.</b> The Montcalm Land Use Coalition will be sponsoring Dr. Bruce Dale for a biofuel seminar. The March date is to be finalized.	Planning Commission could help promote event/ members could attend.
<b>7) Establish Countywide Brownfield Authority.</b> The Brownsfield Authority ordinance and membership has been established. This Authority will enable us to take steps forward on property environmental assessment as well as resource procurement.	NA

<b>8) Update County Recreation Plan including Funding options.</b> The County's Parks and Recreation Committee is currently involved in updating and revising the plan.	NA
<b>9) Prepare County Capital Improvement Plan annually.</b> The Planning Commission should begin to work with Local Units of Government to determine their plans for capital improvement planning.	The Planning Commission needs to look at this priority as the Fact Book undergoes an update process.
<b>10) Update land use analysis with new fly over information.</b> The Planning Commission should see if this is the type of project to take on to evaluate land use change using the old data of 1978 and most recent. Funds would need to be identified. Don Smucker suggested perhaps identifying priority geographic areas to focus resources.	Don Lehman will follow up with his contact at MSU.
<b>11) Establish county trail authority.</b> Nothing currently is happening on this priority. It needs to be addressed as part of County recreation plan. Key issues are maintenance and operation.	NA
<b>12) Identify and develop recreation and cultural opportunities for youth.</b> This priority should be addressed as part of the County recreation plan.	NA
<b>13) Update Fact Book annually.</b> The Fact Book information will be at least a year old in February. Data, narrative, and maps are the biggest issues. The Planning Commission needs to determine what changes are needed and how those changes will be made.	Planning Commission members should review Fact Book and come back in February with suggested changes based on new information or gaps.
<b>14) Develop PR program using Daily News.</b> <b>15) Provide training and technical assistance to local governments.</b> The Planning Commission needs to work with Land Use Educator on this to communicate to both the public and Local Units of Government. Phil Lund suggested an article highlighting Don Smucker's new role appointment.	Don Lehman will work with John Berchtold to submit an article.
<b>16) Develop watershed management plans for each river watershed and major lake watersheds. There has not been any action yet on this priority.</b> However, looking ahead, active participants should include the Montcalm County Drain Commissioner (as he is the local representative for all local lake boards); Michigan Lakes and Streams organization, Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), and Timberland RC&D.	NA

### **New Business**

#### 2007 Economic Development Priorities/ Objectives for Montcalm Alliance (HANDOUT E)

Franz Mogdis reviewed this information for the Planning Commission members. He notes much consistency between these priorities and the Planning Commission priorities just discussed.

#### Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Resolution (HANDOUT F)

The Brownsfield Redevelopment Authority Resolution was passed December 4, 2006 and Authority members were appointed today by the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners. An organizational meeting will be initiated by the Montcalm Alliance (who will be the administrator) within the next couple of weeks. The first order of business will be to develop by-laws and operational procedures and then submit them to the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners for approval.

#### Isabella County Master Plan Update (HANDOUT G)

The Planning Commission received information from Isabella County regarding their new draft Master Plan. Don Smucker has already reviewed the plan and submitted his comments to Franz Mogdis. All Planning Commission members were offered opportunity to review the hard copy or CD version of this draft plan and submit their comments.

### Proposed Change of February Planning Commission Meeting Date

Due to the Planning Commission's next regular meeting date of February 19 being a Federal Holiday, Planning Commission members agreed to change the next meeting date to Monday, February 26.

### **Public Comments**

Franz Mogdis again opened the floor to public comment.

### Don Lehman had the following remarks:

- Restated from earlier discussion that Dr. Bruce Dale will be coming in March.
- Last year, a small contingency went to the land use summit at the MSU campus in Lansing. February 19 is the date of this year's summit. Early registration deadline is February 4. Don Lehman asked if any Planning Commission members were interested in attending. Both Don Smucker and Don Lehman indicated interest in attending. Also opportunity to submit a grant that would be due by the end of the month. Motioned by Bruce Noll that the Planning Commission pay for up to 5 land use summit conference registrations. Seconded by S. Michael Scott. Motion carried.
- MSUE will be having a local citizen planner program. It will run for seven weeks, on Thursday nights, starting March 29 at the MAISD in Stanton. Brochures should be ready soon.
- Dick Reeves is on agenda to discuss mapping and fly-over updates at the Land Use Coalition meeting on Thursday, January 25.

Don Smucker: As requested at a previous Planning Commission meeting, Don Smucker researched and noted all the PA116 applications that the Planning Commission has approved. Don Smucker met with Dick Reeves to ensure his office's information was consistent. Don Smucker said this is a good practice and he will continue it.

Lisa Lund suggested adding "Land Use Educator Report" as a permanent item under the agenda's "Report" section. There was agreement and this will be done for future agendas.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 26 at 7:00 pm in the third floor conference room at the County Administration Building, 211 W. Main, Stanton.

### **Adjournment**

Motioned by John Johansen to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Don Smucker. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa Lund, Recording Secretary