

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

Monday, November 20, 2006, 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  
    Pete Haines

Members Absent:                    Lonnie Smith

Participating Members Present:    Don Lehman, Michigan State University Montcalm Extension  
    John Berchtold, Montcalm County Administrator/ Controller

Others Present:                    Lisa Lund, Recording Secretary; Peter Preston, Trinity Engineering  
    and Surveying Services.

**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. Peter Preston from Trinity Engineering and Surveying Services introduced himself to the Planning Commission, stating their business is seeking to specialize in rural planning and zoning services.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

All handouts noted are on file with the Recording Secretary.

John Johansen suggested two grammatical changes to clarify sentences under the “approval of the agenda” section (e.g., “John Johansen asked Franz Mogdis....” “Motioned by Don Smucker...”).

Motioned by John Johansen to approve the October 16 meeting minutes as amended. Seconded by Bruce Noll. Motion carried. (HANDOUT A).

## **Approval of the Agenda**

Motioned by Bruce Noll to approve agenda as amended. Seconded by S. Michael Scott. Motion carried.

## **Reports**

None

## **Old Business**

### General Plan Priorities Initial Status Report

Franz Mogdis develop a progress report template for the December meeting.

### Land Use Educator Status

Don Lehman shared that the Land Use Educator- Don Smucker- started on November 13. Don Smucker distributed a copy of a handout (HANDOUT B). Don Smucker asked for feedback on the “Issues if Greater than Local Concern” which were on page 7-5 of the Montcalm County General Plan. This would assist him in setting priorities for his work as Educator. The issues were in the two categories of: 1) Land Use and 2) Protecting the Environment and Natural Resources, Watersheds and Water Quality, and Wetlands Protection.

Planning Commission members were asked to vote in order to set priorities in each area. The top three priorities in each category were as follows:

#### *Land Use*

- Tied for #1 ranking:
  - Loss of rural open space- especially along roads in the county
  - Regional focus on open space preservation and farmland preservation
- #2 ranking
  - Protecting important viewsheds and rural corridor views

#### *Protecting the Environment and Natural Resources, Watersheds and Water Quality, and Wetlands Protection.*

- Tied for #1 ranking:
  - Groundwater pollution
  - Protection of agricultural land
- #2 ranking
  - Water pollution of inland lakes, rivers, and streams

## **New Business**

### Farmland Agreement Applications (2)

Two applications were received from Robert and Judy Keeler in Day Township (HANDOUTS C and D). The applications were directed to the County Clerk because Day Township doesn't have zoning, and thus the County Board of Commissioners needs to approve the applications. Bruce Noll said the Soil Conservation District had previously reviewed and approved both applications. John Berchtold passed around a map of the parcels.

Motioned by Bruce Noll to approve both applications. Seconded by Don Smucker. Motion carried. Lisa Lund was asked to send a letter to Kris Millard regarding the Planning Commission's action.

John Berchtold recommended that the Planning Commission begin mapping P.A. 116 applications, sharing information with Dick Reeves. Don Smucker offered to research P.A. 116 applications that the Planning Commission has approved and initiate that mapping process.

Membership with Expiring Terms Recommendations

Planning Commission members with expiring terms include Franz Mogdis (representing Economic, Industry, Tourism & Communication), Phil Lund (Citizen at Large), and John Johansen (Board of Commissioners). John Johansen indicated that the County Board reappoints on even years for two year terms and that this will happen in January for his position. The Administrator/ Controller will publish a public notice this week accepting applications for of the positions that Franz Mogdis and Phil Lund currently hold. The Planning Commission will make recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners to fill the positions.

Decision on holding December meeting

The Planning Commission will meet on its regular meeting day of Monday, December 18, 2006.

**Public Comments**

Peter Preston announced that he had business cards and copies of his business information materials available for members to take with them.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday, December 18 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 S. Michael Scott. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa Lund, Recording Secretary