

Montcalm Land Use Coalition

MINUTES October 23, 2008

Present: George Atkeson, Brian Fowler, Michael Scott, Franz Mogdis, Glen Kebler, Ed Hansen, Linda Huyck, John Johansen, and Don Smucker.

Chairman John Johansen called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Michael Scott moved to approve agenda George Atkeson supported; motion approved.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Minutes

Minutes of the September 25, 2008 meeting were distributed. George Atkeson moved to approve, supported by Linda Huyck; motion approved.

Officer's Reports

Don Smucker reported on activities of the Land Use Agent including working on updating local Planning Commission ordinances brought about by the Coordinated Planning Act, and the purchase of the county mapping program by townships, cities and villages.

COGG Report

George Atkeson reported on the meeting featuring Eight Cap and Michigan Works! Programs. Three areas for the work force were discussed including keeping learning no matter what stage of life, our changing county profile with more industry than most rural counties but with declining manufacturing jobs and the National Career Readiness Certificate and Work Keys. For more information please visit: <http://www.michiganworks.org> and <http://www.eightcap.org/>

Montcalm County Planning Commission

Franz Mogdis reported on the updated listing of Montcalm County Planning Commission Implementation Priorities. The Commission is encouraging the Land Use Coalition to pursue two of the county's economic development priorities. These are: (10) Develop Agriculture Protection Plan and (5) Develop Watershed Management Plans for each river watershed and major lake watersheds.

Program

Don Smucker, MSU Land Use Agent gave a presentation on Farmland Preservation Programs in Michigan. The presentation covered projected land use in Michigan and updates on PA 116, State of Michigan Purchased and Donated Conservation Easements and the Michigan Agriculture Preservation Fund.

Three elements that are for a local Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program are that the local government is to have a comprehensive land use plan that is less than five years old and includes agricultural preservation, local government unit adopts a PDR ordinance, and local matching funds are included with PDR applications. For more information please visit www.michigan.gov/farmland
To view the program presentation please go to <http://www.montcalm.org/economy5548942.asp>

Future Schedule and Work Plans

Fall/Winter Meeting Schedule and possible speakers were identified as follows:

December 3, Ottawa County Farmland Protection Ordinance. Mark Knudsen to be contacted by Franz Mogdis and John Johansen

January 22, 2009 Farmland Preservation in Kent County. Kendra Wills has been contacted by MSU Extension (dates and speakers may be changed depending on their availability).

February 26, Planning Tools for Watershed and Water Quality Preservation- Kurt Schindler (Citizen Planner Session to be held in Lakeview Tamarack District Library; (MSUE to arrange).

March 26 Franz Mogdis is to contact a speaker from Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. (This may be our county wide meeting).

April 23, May 28, and June 25 to be arranged. Greg Northrup of WMSA has been identified as a possible speaker.

Other

A discussion followed regarding possible next steps for the Land Use Coalition regarding farmland preservation. John Johansen suggested that we follow tonight's presentation with presentations from Kent and Ottawa PDR programs.

John Johansen and Don Smucker to update the Work Plan for the LUC.

Next Meeting

December 3, 7:00 MAISD

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Don Smucker