

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BEDFORD
115 S. ULDRIKS DRIVE
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN,
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
May 23, 2023

Call to Order-6:30 pm by Chairman, Mike Staib

- **Pledge of Allegiance administered by attending body.**

Roll Call: Barry Beamish, Board Trustee; Commissioners: Barbara Jones, Shirley Tuggle, Claudia Brown, Kevin Villadsen, Towney Wolters, Michael Staib. Seven members present. Quorum established.

absence: none

Approval of May 23, 2023 Agenda: moved by Commissioner Brown second by Commissioner Jones. Seven affirmative, motion approved.

Approval of March 28, 2023 Minutes: moved by Commissioner Jones and second by Commissioner Brown. All affirmative, motion approved.

Liaison Report: Trustee Beamish stated the Board is waiting on Solar Ordinance. Appreciate the progress. Great presentation by Parks and Recreation report. Check out video on Township website.

Public Comment Time on agenda items: Open at 6:36 pm

Brandon Lumberg extended his apologies for previous comments (March 28, 2023) and thanked the Commission for it's time and commitment to community.

Public Comment Time closed at 6:37 pm

Zoning Administration Report: New Zoning Administrator-Jason Ughetti

- Reviewing Marijuana Ordinances, currently no separation of Medical Use vs. Recreational Use.
- Seth recommended review-Ordinance NO. 2/8/18/06 "**The Bedford Charter Township Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Ordinance**" page 3 Section 4 B. Discussion ensued, Seth will follow up.
- Updating Zoning Map

Discussion of New Business

Public Hearing: Bedford Charter Township Solar Ordinance

Moved by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Villadsen, seven affirmative, motion approved for the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing Comment Time: Open 6:52 pm Solar Ordinance Only

- Several residents spoke on their disagreement with the Solar Ordinance. They included the fact that a representative from Consumer Powers was present at the meeting.
- Concerns about farmland being reduced in township.
- Other residents spoke in favor of strengthening the Solar Ordinance to provide more protections for residents and adjacent land owners.
- Consumer's Energy representative, Joe Lawson, had concerns regarding setbacks, adjacent parcels, participating parcels and PA116 exclusion; felt that the ordinance was too restrictive.

Public Comment Time closed at 7:04 pm

Discussion Chair Staib and Trustee Beamish on the improved Solar Ordinance with specific guidelines/protections. A framework in place.

Roll Call Vote: Motion to send Solar Ordinance to Calhoun County Planning Commission for review. Planning commission recommendation for the Board to approve and adopt. Moved by Commissioner Villadsen and seconded by Commissioner Brown, seven affirmative votes, motion approved.

Discussion of Old Business

Chairman Staib:

- a. Final Review of Master Plan Moved by Trustee Beamish, seconded by Commissioner Jones, motion approved.
- b. Discussion; all in agreement of changes from previous meeting. Motion to send Master Plan to the Board for approval for 63 day review. Moved by Commissioner Brown, and seconded by Commissioner Wolters, 7 affirmative. Motion approved.

Open Public Comment Time: 7:24 pm:

- Several residents expressed that they are having difficulty knowing when the PC meets, what is on the agenda. Expressed need for better communication.

Public Comment Time closed at 7:32 pm

Planning Commission Member Time:

Trustee Beamish: noted that meetings are announced at the close of each meeting, they are posted on the township website, and are scheduled 1 year in advance. There are no current commercial Solar Farm applications.

Commissioner Wolters: stated website needs improvement, but packet is posted; reemphasized need for more communication

Commissioner Tuggle: noted the PC tries to be fair, listen to residents; thanked PC members for hard work.

Commissioner Villadsen: stated still trying to get more communication out

Commissioner Jones: noted Coffee & Conversation on Wednesday mornings 9:00-10:30

Commissioner Brown: noted the hard work from the PC

Chairman Staib: stated he realized website needs work, and that the township is making efforts to improve. Making effort to get packet posted to township website by the Thursday prior to Tuesday PC meeting. Residents with specific concerns can call the zoning and building administrator to discuss.

Chairman Staib adjourned Meeting at 7:47 pm

Next meeting June 27, 2023 at 6:30pm

Shirley Tuggle, Secretary