

Hadley Township Planning Commission

4293 Pratt Rd

P O Box 227

Hadley MI 48440

May 16, 2017

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Shoemaker at 7:33 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call of members present: David Hinton, Glenn Walton, Jennifer VanDam, Ron Shoemaker, Kim Hill, Elwyn Brandt and Robert Hartwig.

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner VanDam moved to accept the agenda as presented, second by Commissioner Hinton. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Brandt moved to accept the minutes of the April meeting as presented, second by Commissioner Hinton. Motion approved.

Old Business:

- 1.) Fireworks Ordinance – the Fireworks Ordinance was approved at last Tuesday's Township Board Meeting.
- 2.) Amendment to the Blight Ordinance – there was discussion regarding what the amendment to the ordinance was trying to accomplish. Commissioner VanDam moved to accept the amendment with a noted spelling correction, and send it to the Township Board for their approval. Second by Commissioner Walton. Motion approved.

New Business:

- 1.) ZBA Report – there have not been any recent meetings of the ZBA Board but there is one coming up in June. The new hearing will be for Mark

McMahon regarding tearing down his current pole barn and putting up a new one. This will cause him to be in violation of the front and rear setbacks so he is asking for a variance.

- 2.) Township Board Report – Commissioner Hartwig reported that the Township Board will discuss the dilapidated barn on Brauer Road at their next meeting. There is a budget meeting coming up on June 24th. Annual clean up at the Sutherland Conservation Area was last weekend and it was found that there will be another 40 acres added to the Conservation Area soon.
- 3.) Correspondence – none.

Public Time:

None

Commissioner Comments:

Chairperson Shoemaker recognized Commissioner VanDam for her 15 years of service to the Planning Commission as this is her last meeting. He thanked her for serving and wished her luck in her future endeavors.

Commissioners Hinton, Walton, Hill, Brandt and Hartwig echoed Chairman Shoemaker's remarks.

Commissioner Brandt discussed the past meeting and questioned why a non-resident would be allowed to speak against a special land use request as he would not have any stake in the outcome. He felt that a non-resident was given a chance to tell the Commission what they should and should not do and was still questioning the outcome. Chairman Shoemaker replied that non-residents can speak during the public time as long as they follow the rules and are respectful. Whether or not we allow them to influence our decision remains up to us. He explained that ultimately the decision to not grant Mr. Oberle's request did not fit in with the purpose for that zoned area and that we have a very fine line to walk deciding whether or not to grant variances as it sets us up for challenges in the future.

Commissioner Hartwig stated that he is worried about the direction we may be headed in. Chairman Shoemaker replied that if we are worried about having too many ordinances to follow it may be time to review some of them and see if there are changes to be made. He also pointed out that all ordinances are set at the behest of the Township Board – we are appointed to make sure that the

ordinances are followed. We also have to make sure that the ordinances don't cause any unforeseen circumstance, which is something else we can review for.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly S Hill