

Minutes
Bedford Township Master Plan Steering Committee
Meeting May 19, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Present:

John Kreuchauf, Samaria Heritage Committee
Karen Fischer, Economic Development Corporation
Brad Greeley, Board of Zoning Appeals
Korleen Bialecki, Planning Commission
Dennis Jenkins, Planning Department

Excused:

Gene Stock – Community At Large Representative
Joyce Blanton, Downtown Development Authority

Also Present:

Trudy Hershberger, Township Clerk
Karen Kincaid, Planning Department
Barry Buschmann, Mannik & Smith
Royce Maniko, Mannik & Smith
Glenn Grisdale, Reveille

Bialecki called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Kincaid called the roll. Quorum present.

APPROVAL OF THE Minutes of April 7, 2014

Jenkins indicated that the minutes as submitted identified Karen Fischer as Fisher and asked that the minutes be corrected. Motion by Jenkins, supported by Kreuchauf to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Bialecki asked that the Mission Statement be revised to reflect the request of the Supervisor to have the committee provide a progress report to the Planning Commission and Township Board on a bi-monthly schedule. Trudy Hershberger will provide an update to the Township Board. Also suggested was additional wording to engage the Monroe County Business Development Corporation as a stakeholder in the process. It was also noted that the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary were appointed rather than elected.

Motion by Jenkins, supported by Brad Greeley to make the changes to the Mission Statement. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

SURVEY

Glenn Grisdale presented the online survey format and how it will be used throughout the planning process. Greeley questioned whether the survey was limited to one per household or per person and asked how we can prevent a single person from submitting multiple survey responses. Maniko said that each person in a household can submit a response. Grisdale indicated that there was no simple way to prevent that from happening and added that as a survey is submitted a “cookie” is left on the user’s computer that may eliminate multiple submittals.

Jenkins suggested that the words “Big Box” be changed to General Commercial since the former has a negative connotation. Bialecki questioned whether the questions were standard survey questions or specific to Bedford Township. Grisdale indicated that some were standard questions and some were Bedford specific. Kreuchauf mentioned input from the agricultural community.

Grisdale commented that they would like the survey to be available on the Township website on May 28, 2014 and that it be made available until July 3, 2014. Mr. Grisdale will monitor the progress. Fischer questioned the response rate. Grisdale indicated that he expects approximately 379 responses.

Hershberger said that the township newsletter will contain information about the survey and will encourage residents to respond.

Grisdale also handed out disposable cameras and asked each member to take photographs of likes and dislikes around the township. He will collect the cameras so that his staff can analysis the photos.

Maniko asked if there were other community groups that should be made aware of the survey. Hershberger said that she will utilize the township website and cable television channel as well as local media. And other committees.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Zdybek, 1807 Smith Rd., and also a member of the Bedford Township Planning Commission mentioned that he attended a workshop presented by the Michigan Association of Planning. Mr. Zdybek was pleased that Bedford Township already applies many of the suggestions recommended by MAP. Zdybek also mentioned that during his conversation with a realtor who specializes in land sales said that developers are not interested in land sales but farmers are.

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MEMBER COMMENTS

Bialecki asked at what point will the committee be reviewing the Goals and Objectives of the current Master Plan. Maniko said that the five goals, thirteen objectives and fifty strategies would be reviewed at a future meeting to determine which of them stand out and which of them we have difficulty with. Maniko also added that Transportation is a key element that must be considered.

INFORMATION

The next meeting will be held on June 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was duly adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Kincaid
Acting Recording Secretary