

Minutes
Bedford Township Master Plan Steering Committee
Meeting September 15, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Karen Fischer, Economic Development Corporation
Gene Stock
Korleen Bialecki, Planning Commission
John Kreuchauf, Samaria Heritage Committee
Dennis Jenkins, Planning Department

Excused:

Brad Greeley, Board of Zoning Appeals

Also Present:

Trudy Hershberger, Township Clerk
Karen Kincaid, Planning Department
Barry Buschmann, Mannik & Smith
Ned Birkey
Carey Cousino
Ron Cousino

Bialecki called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Jenkins called the roll. Quorum present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Stock supported by Fisher to Approve the Agenda of August 18, 2014

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION REGARDING AGRICULTURAL LAND USE IN BEDFORD TOWNSHIP – NED BIRKEY

Ned Birkey was present along with Gary and Ron Cousino representing the farming community. Mr. Birkey reviewed statistics from the Ohio Comprehensive plan detailing the cost of the various land uses to the public budgets. Residential being the most revenue consumptive and agricultural the least consumptive. Mr. Birkey also stressed the value of agricultural and open space land to residents. Ned discussed the types of agriculture in Monroe County and Bedford Township and stated that crops are the dominant product. Livestock operations are nearly nonexistent in the county due to conflicts with urbanization.

Mr. Birkey suggested that the township consider two agricultural land use categories to differentiate intense agricultural

uses from less intense farming. Separation from dense urban areas is also encouraged.

Carey Cousino indicated that he was against large scale developments in Bedford as well as buffer zones to prevent conflicts with urban land uses.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE COMMUNITY SURVEY REGARDING TRANSPORTATION ISSUES.

7.B Discussion Regarding the Master Plan Economic Development Component.

Tim Lake, President of the Monroe County Business Development Group presented a rough draft of the Economic Development Component. Mr. Lake highlighted each of the five areas of the component including:

- 1. Community Planning and Outreach** covering the master plan process.
- 2. Development Review Process** to make certain each governing body understands their role in the development process and is afforded training opportunities.
- 3. Recruitment and Education** to recruit the best candidates for positions on various boards and commissions.
- 4. Development Ready Sites** to identify sites in Bedford that have development potential and make certain all infrastructure is available and adequate.
- 5. Community Prosperity** to identify goals and actions to strengthen the overall economic health of Bedford Township.

Mr. Lake also suggested that the community develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Bedford which coordinates with the county and regional CEDS. He also stressed the importance of creating a sense of community to attract workers to the area.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Pearsall discussed the trend toward internet purchasing and that it does not help the local economy.

9. INFORMATION/STAFF COMMENT

Maniko mentioned that he met with the Bedford Park Commission and discussed a meeting in Dundee regarding non-motorized vehicle (bike paths and walking paths)

development in southeast Michigan. Several members of the park commission will attend the meeting.

INFORMATION

The next meeting will be held on September 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was duly adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Jenkins
Recording Secretary