

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

July 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call –Jernberg, Makuski, Rosema and Peel were present. Gillett was absent. Also present were Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator and Nathan Mehmed from Williams and Works.

Approval or changes to agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

Approve minutes from May 7, 2018 meeting. Minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Rosema, second by Peel. Motion passed.

1. Kent County Road Commission – Kent County Dispatch Authority Communication Tower Application

The Road Commission is entering into a lease with the Dispatch Authority. Jennifer DeHaan, Eric Hutchinson, and Matt Groesser were present to discuss the project. The proposed tower, on KCRC property located at 1000 Cumberland SE, would provide 800 MH for the central district; one of 4 new sites being paid for with voter approved mileage for 911 updates and enhanced public safety. 5 other locations have been investigated but this location is the only one that will support the needs of the central district. Co-locating on other towers in the area is also problematic, as they are not tall enough to reach areas needing signals. Jernberg asked them to supply documentation in writing as to why this location is the only one they can use. The lease language includes the ability for other providers to co-locate, and the tower is being designed to handle additional equipment.

Rezoning – Should it be necessary, will take approximately 3 months. However, the applicant suggested that under the ordinance, “essential services” includes communication towers for emergency services. Vandersloot will make a determination.

Hutchinson said they will provide all needed documents within a week or so. He asked whether a full stake survey is necessary, or will GIS and an overview survey be acceptable? The parcel is a little less than 100 acres, and they intend to utilize only a corner of it. The commission agreed to a limited staked survey of approximately 20 acres with details of the remaining site depicted.

2. Solar Energy Ordinance Discussion

The commissioners looked over a chart provided by Williams and Works showing what other townships have enacted. It was noted that it will be important to include a de-commissioning clause, in the event that economic and technological advances lead to dis-use in the future. The commissioners will forward comments and questions to Vandersloot.

Other issues still on the commission's agenda – Tent Trailers; Satellite dishes; Grade levels

Vandersloot noted that Grattan is doing a Master Plan update. The draft is available on their website, and comments are due September 5th.

Scott Jernberg announced that he would be leaving the Planning Commission because of a move out of the Township. He has been a member of the Planning Commission for 19 years, and was thanked for his excellent service. A replacement will be sought.

The next meeting will be in October, unless a request is made for an earlier date.

Makuski motioned to adjourn, Peel seconded, and the Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Stone
Deputy Clerk