

**Vergennes Township Planning Commission**  
**Monday, November 7, 2011**

Scott Jernberg, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call – Baird, Jernberg, Rasch, Mastrovito, Post, and Medendorp were present.

Motion by Mastrovito to approve the minutes from the August 29, 2011 meeting as written, seconded by Rasch. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Agenda as written by Post, seconded by Medendorp. Motion carried.

**1. Set 2012 Meeting Dates**

Jeanne Vandersloot provided a 2012 calendar to members with election dates highlighted. The Planning Commission tries to avoid meeting the eve of elections. Scott Jernberg suggested the following dates; February 6, May 7, July 9 and October 1, 2012. He took into account spring break, elections and holidays. Four dates is the minimum number of meeting times required by law. After discussion, the above dates were approved and recommended to the Township Board for final approval.

**2. Check Member Term Expirations**

Tom Medendorp and Nate Post terms are up on the Planning Commission in December. Are they willing to continue on the Commission or would they rather quit? Tom Medendorp is semi-retired and is out of state from November 8, 2011 through May 8, 2012. There was some discussion by the Township Board to reduce the number of members from seven to five. There hasn't been a lot going on in the Township and many of the scheduled meetings have been cancelled. Tom indicated that if the Commission still wanted him, he would be glad to serve. Even though he is gone for a length of time, it appears he will only miss one meeting as it is scheduled now. Nathan Post would like to continue on the Commission. Both parties completed applications and turned them in to Jeanne Vandersloot. The Township Board will make a final decision at their December, 2011 Board meeting.

**3. Discuss Planner Letter Regarding Census/Master Plan**

Per the letter from Brian Wegener at Williams and Works, year 2012 would warrant a five-year review of our master plan per the State. There is new information to be considered with the census information available now. The Planning Commission spent a good two years on the current master plan, sending out surveys and really taking into account what the Township residents were looking for. With the

economy as it is and the lack of building going on, Jernberg does not feel a full-fledged review of the current master plan is required. Jeanne Vandersloot will forward more detailed information on census/population changes to the Commission. Commission members will review current master plan on their time and see if census numbers and rezonings warrant any changes. This will be discussed again at the February 6, 2012 meeting.

### **Announcements – None**

### **General Public Comment Time**

Mr. Ed Smit of 1752 Fallasburg Park Drive, Lowell MI attended the meeting to determine the best way to get information from the Township. He was in the office earlier today and seemed to hit a brick wall when he asked about land prices, taxes, zoning, etc. Scott Jernberg assured him that the answers are available, he probably caught the office staff short on time or something. He recommended Tim Wittenbach or Al Baird as experts in the area of history of the Township on who owns what and for how long. Mr. Smit was interested in purchasing some land from Southwell's who are going to be putting their land up for sale soon. Jeanne Vandersloot advised him to contact her for an appointment to discuss zoning questions, terminology, districts, land divisions, etc. Tim Wittenbach said it sounded like Mr. Smit was confusing definitions between zoning and assessing. There are differences even though many terms are the same word. He will contact Jeanne Vandersloot for an appointment.

Jeanne Vandersloot indicated that Dave Steinbrecker and Bill Makuski are looking into developing the Marina property into condos. They have had a lot of surveyors, biologists, etc...out looking at feasibility. Nothing has been submitted to the Township formally yet. Just mentioned it to keep it on the radar for next year.

### **Adjourn Regular Scheduled Meeting**

Mastrovito motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm. Medendorp seconded. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for February 6, 2012.