

CASS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

August 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes

1. The Meeting of the Cass County Planning Commission was called to order in the Kincheloe Room of the Cass County Building by Dan Stutsman at 3:54pm.
2. **Members present:** Dan Stutsman, Roseann Marchetti, David Kring, Char Hiemstra, Dianna McGrew, Richard Palmisano. **Absent:** Jayne Bailey, Annie File, Edwin Johnson III. **Guests present:** Linda McGregor, Jim Griggs, Craig Schmidt, Jerry Marchetti, Frank Butts, Sandy Seanor and Dawn Bolock.
3. Marchetti moved, Kring seconded, CARRIED, to amend the agenda to remove approval of July 24 minutes, as there was no quorum, and to remove “rezone” and add PA116 application for Reed Farms.
4. McGrew moved, Marchetti seconded, CARRIED, to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2023 meeting.
5. **Ontwa Township:** Sandy Seanor proposed an ordinance allowing residents to own ducks, chickens and rabbit, which could enable youth the opportunity to show the animals for 4-H. Each residence is to have no more than 15 animals in total. John Hanson has made it possible to get digital copies for Ontwa Township.
 - a. Hiemstra moved, McGrew seconded, CARRIED, to approve the ordinance.
6. **Howard Township:** Howard Township Administrator Linda McGregor proposed changes to Chapter 18, Section 18.02: Specific Standards for Special Land Use Approval, adding a new subparagraph to cover “pop up retail.” The amendment applies only to R1 (low-density rural residential districts) and AR (agriculture residential districts).
 - a. Marchetti moved, McGrew seconded, CARRIED, the proposed amendment, which sets a minimum lot size for such use at one acre, designates number of days and hours of operation and sets rules for parking, food and beverage, and licenses.
7. **Marcellus Township:** Kring moved, Marchetti seconded, CARRIED, to approve Reed Family Farms’ application for PA116.
8. **Wayne Township:** Jim Griggs from Wayne Township presented the proposed ordinance to place some restrictions on short-term rentals. Palmisano suggested that they may want to make some additional changes to the ordinance after about a year. It was suggested that it may be too loose an ordinance.
 - a. Kring moved, Palmisano seconded, CARRIED to approve first draft.
9. A letter of opposition to the proposed gravel pit was received along with a Salt Lake Tribune article and an assessment of the Economic Impact of a proposed gravel pit in Richland Township, Michigan done by George A Erickcek, Senior Regional Analyst, W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. The planning commission has not received any ordinance change for Volinia Township.
10. Stustman adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Char Hiemstra