

Tuscola County Planning Commission Annual Report 2021

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| 1.0 INTRODUCTION..... | 2 |
| 2.0 MEMBERSHIP | 2 |
| 3.0 MEETINGS | 2 |
| 3.1 ATTENDANCE | 3 |
| 4.0 PLANNING COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES | 3 |
| 5.0 PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIVITY IN 2021 | 4 |
| 5.1 Master Plan Reviews..... | 4 |
| 5.2 Zoning Amendments and revisions..... | 4 |
| 5.3 Review of Township Ordinances..... | 4 |
| 5.4 Review of Local Development Plans. | 4 |
| 5.5 Farmland Agreement Applications (PA 116)..... | 5 |
| 5.6 FOIA requests..... | 5 |
| 5.7 Topics Reviewed and Discussed..... | 5 |
| 5.8 County Master Plan..... | 6 |
| 6.0 ZONING PERMIT AND VIOLATION ACTIVITY IN 2021..... | 6 |
| 7.0 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS ACTIVITY IN 2021 | 6 |
| 7.1 Airport Zoning Board of Appeals..... | 6 |
| 8.0 TRAINING AND LOCAL OUTREACH..... | 7 |
| 9.0 PLANNING COMMISSION GOALS | 7 |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Tuscola County Planning Commission functions under and has their powers and duties set forth by both the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (PA 33 of 2008) and the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (PA 110 of 2006). The Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MPEA) provides for the creation, organization, powers and duties of Planning Commissions. The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (MZEA) provides for the adoption of zoning ordinances and the establishment of zoning districts and prescribes powers and duties of certain officials including the Planning Commission.

Section 19 of the MPEA (MCL 125.3819) requires the Tuscola County Planning Commission to make an annual written report to the County Board of Commissioners. This report is to provide the Board with a summary and status of planning activities over the past year.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

The MPEA states that the membership of the Planning Commission shall be representative of important segments of the community, such as the economic, governmental, educational, and social development of the local unit of government, in accordance with the major interests as they exist in the local unit of government, such as agriculture, natural resources, recreation, education, public health, government, transportation, industry, and commerce. The membership shall also be representative of the entire geography of the local unit of government to the extent practicable.

In 2021, the Planning Commission's membership consisted of:

- Rick Boylan
- Cynthia Kapa*
- Lonnie Kester, Chair
- Robert McKay
- Albert Pearsall, Vice Chair
- Heidi Stark**
- Ann Westover, Secretary*

*member has Citizen Planner Certification through MSO Extension.

**member has completed Master Citizen Planner requirements through MSU Extension.

The Board of Commissioner's Liaison was Kim Vaughn.

3.0 MEETINGS

At the January 5, 2021 meeting the Planning Commission set their 2022 meetings for the first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Meetings are to be held at the Purdy Building.

In 2021, the Commission met monthly. Due to the established COVID protocols and guidance, the planning commission met virtually from January thru May. The commission resumed in-person meetings in June. No special meetings or closed sessions were held. All meetings were held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976).

3.1 ATTENDANCE

The Planning Commission held twelve (12) regular meetings in 2021. Member attendance is indicated with an X. Excused attendance is marked with an E.

| Name | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Rick Boylan | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | E | X | E | X | X |
| Cynthia Kapa | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | E | X | X |
| Lonnie Kester | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | E | X | X | X | E |
| Robert McKay | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X |
| Albert Pearsall | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Heidi Stark | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | E | X |
| Ann Westover | X | E | X | X | X | E | X | X | X | X | X | X |

The August meeting was cancelled for lack of quorum.

4.0 PLANNING COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Planning Commission has a broad range of responsibilities and duties. While many duties are statutory, the scope of certain roles are directed, defined and approved by the Board of Commissioners. The Planning Commission’s basic duties and responsibilities as defined by the MZEA and the MPEA include the following:

- Review and make recommendations, as required by the MZEA, on zoning amendments for any township in the County that has their own zoning ordinance
- Review and comment on any proposed master plans or master plan amendments for any community within or adjacent to Tuscola County as required by the MPEA
- Reviews applications into the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program (PA 116)
- Serves as the coordinating agency for all planning in the county
- Cooperates with neighboring and area local governments, state and federal governments and other agencies of Tuscola County government
- Oversees, creates, modifies and maintains the Tuscola County Master Plan. Part of this work includes promoting public interest and understanding of the master plan and the master plan process. The Planning Commission also makes ordinance proposals, plan amendments and sub plans as required by the Board of Commissioners in accordance with the MZEA, Tuscola County Zoning Ordinance and the Tuscola County Master Plan.

- Creates studies of existing and future conditions, surveys, and probable growth. These studies should include economic development, social development, physical development and environmental concerns.
- Recommends Capital Improvement Program (CIP) elements for capital expenditures of the government. (and creates the CIP if not assigned to another agency)
- Conducts infrastructure reviews of proposed physical improvements in the government
- Prepares an annual report and submits a yearly budget and an annual work program.
- Keep public records of its meetings and other documents, all complying with the Freedom of Information Act

5.0 PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIVITY IN 2021

5.1 Master Plan Reviews

- Koylton Townships Master Plan 2021-2026
- Village of Mayville Master Plan 2021-2026

5.2 Zoning Amendments and revisions

- Arbelia Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment
- Juniata Township Zoning Ordinance Revision
- Village of Mayville Zoning Ordinance
- Wells Township Zoning Amendment
- Juniata Township Rural Zoning Ordinance

5.3 Review of Township Ordinances

- Columbia Township Ordinance revision – Medical Marijuana
- Tuscola Township Ordinance revision
- Arbelia Zoning Ordinance 1 (Storage sheds)
- Arbelia Zoning Ordinance 2 (Assessor buildings)
- Elkland Township Solar Ordinance

5.4 Review of Local Development Plans.

- Denmark Parks and Recreation Plan
- Gilford Parks and Recreation Plan
- Tuscola Township – Blasius Inc. Telecommunication Tower and Outbuilding.
- Village of Millington Capital Improvement Plan
- Village of Reese Parks and Recreation Plan