

From: "Comcast Mail" <donandfern@comcast.net>
To: "Kathy Hiatt" <kathy@twp.columbia.mi.us>
Date: 2/8/06 10:50AM
Subject: Planning Commission minutes of February 7, 2006

Columbia Township Planning Commission
Loretto Baker (Twp. Bd. Rep.) Roger Gaede (chairman), Steve Holmstrom, Pam Jarvis (alternate), T. H. Parker, Don Watkins (secretary/vice chair), Beverly Wahr
February 7, 2006

Land Use Plan Workshop Meeting called to order by Gaede at 7:30

Present: Baker, Gaede, Holmstrom, Jarvis, Parker, Watkins, Wahr
Absent: none

Tim Anderson from Region II was present to assist in the Land Use Plan update.
He passed out maps of the township showing current developed land, land suitable for farming and land not suitable for building soils or slopes.

Discussion :

Township Strengths included friendly small town/rural character; good highway access with US 127, M50 and M124 as well as close by US 12, moderate growth rate, retaining current residents as well as bringing in population from the outside; most homes are owner occupied; the number of renters decreased from 1990 to 2000.

Township Weaknesses included unplanned growth, large lot residential development, a bedroom community (90+%) work outside of the township.

Request of the township: provide a map marked with new home construction not rebuild or expansion so we can see exactly where the now growth is occurring.

Request of Region II, Land Use Plans of adjacent units so we will be compatible along our boundaries.

Items for the new Land Use Plan:

Light Industry commercial mix along , US127 and M50.

Open space development. Homesites tied to undeveloped land in the Zoning Law.

Support senior citizens by allowing attached or in house apartment for elderly parent or care provider of occupant in residential areas

Motion to approve minutes of January 24, 2006 as written by Wahr and seconded by Baker, ayes all.

Meet March 7, 2006 7:30 PM Land Use Plan workshop after public hearing

Recommend we buy CD and Course Book from Lorman Education Services vice going to the course.
Request that Region II set up training for Planning and invite nearby planners and ZBA to join.

Motion to adjourn by Holmstrom and seconded by Wahr at 9:30 PM.

Don Watkins
Secretary/ Vice Chair