

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

February 7, 2023
7:00 PM

Meeting held in person at Township Office

Minutes

Call to order, Pledge of Allegiance: Chairperson Wanty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Mr. Trout called the roll: Present: Chairperson Todd Wanty, Vice-Chair Bob Jenson, Secretary Mike Trout, Hollis Jeffreys, Walter Reed, Krissie Barnes, Mike McKay; Absent: None; Recognized Guests: Jessica Curtis, Mike Bullinger.

Approval of Agenda: *Motion by Mr. McKay, supported by Mr. Jeffreys to approve the agenda as amended (Correct date and minor formatting). Ayes all. Motion Carried*

Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2022: *Motion by Mr. Jensen, supported by Mr. Reed to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes all. Motion Carried*

Purpose of meeting: Chair Wanty presented the purpose of the meeting.
a. First of four required annual meetings.

Public Comment: Chair Wanty opened the public comment period at 7:05 p.m. There were no comments, and the Chair closed the public comment period at 7:06 p.m.

Old Business:

- a. Community Survey – Chair Wanty inquired whether Ms. Curtis had any luck contacting the school. She indicated her attempts were unsuccessful. Mr. Reed noted he could reach out through his contacts at the Lions club including school representatives. Mr. McKay commented on the idea of including the survey in the tax bills however the Township Board had chosen not to. Chair Wanty would talk to the Supervisor again. Various members commented on difficulty finding the survey due to multiple Columbia townships and that many residents are seasonal. It was noted that signs around the township might bring better attention. Ms. Barnes asked if hard copies were available and it was unknown. Mr. Jensen suggested the Area on Aging and the Chamber could be engaged. Mr. Reed commented that it may be a due to tabulating that the electronic version is preferred but the website was hard to use.

b. Master Plan Update – Ms. Barnes asked what the Master Plan was used for and Chair Wanty explained various elements and their purpose in planning and zoning. He further noted that the Survey needed to be completed in order to move forward with the Master Plan. It was generally agreed that efforts to get better responses should be addressed soon and that an end date should be determined. It was unknown whether comments from Region II had been received.

New Business:

a. 2022 Annual Report – Chair Wanty presented the report and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none and it was agreed to accept the report and forward it to the Township Board.

Public Comment: Chair Wanty opened the public comment period at 7:20 p.m. There were no comments, and the Chair closed the public comment period at 7:21 p.m.

Commissioner Comments: Mr. McKay commented that several items seem to be stalled at the Township Board including the master plan, marijuana facilities proposal, and the rezoning of the property at Vicary and 127. He asked that a list of zoning changes currently being compiled by Mr. Church be shared with the Planning Commission. He also noted he had received several calls opposing the Country Boots and Bands concert venue being proposed. Chair Wanty asked Mr. Jeffreys to comment on ZBA activity. Mr. Jeffrey noted that cases were fairly steady and that setback issues continue to be problematic. There was discussion on the new Charter Township status. Bob Jensen brought up the website and after some discussion members would like to have their names and email addresses listed. Ms. Curtis indicated she was in the process of updating various parts of the website and would see if she could add the current information for commissioners.

Adjournment: *Mr. Wanty made the motion supported by Mr. Reed to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Ayes all. Motion carried*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
Mike Trout, Secretary