

~~Un~~-approved minutes

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Exeter Township Planning Commission Minutes July 2, 2024

Exeter Township Planning Commission Chairperson, Tim DeBorde called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present:	Roger Bezek, Tim DeBorde, Julie Murphy, and Amee Runyan
Absent:	Dave Mathewson, Anthony Thrasher
Excused:	
Note:	There were 7 township residents in attendance.

Correction / Approval of Agenda:

The Planning Commission members reviewed the meeting agenda. There were no additions or corrections.

- ❖ **Motion: Amee Runyan, 2nd Julie Murphy:** To adopt the meeting agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes:

Copies of the June 4, 2024 Planning Commission meeting minutes were provided to Planning Commission members. There were no corrections to the meeting minutes.

- ❖ **Motion: Amee Runyan, 2nd Tim DeBorde:** To approve the June 4, 2024 Planning Commission minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

First Public Comment:

It was announced that Exeter Township Supervisor Lon Jacobs has submitted his resignation due to changing his residence to outside the township. Philip Bruck was appointed by the township board to become acting Supervisor until the next election (August primary and November general election). As such, the (Exeter Township Board) liaison member on the Planning Commission is vacant until a new member can be appointed by the township board. Philip Bruck will not participate in tonight's meeting. Also with four (4) Planning Commission members present, there is quorum to conduct any business that comes before the Planning Commission.

A township resident inquired who to contact when a "MISS DIG" (service to locate and "flag" underground utilities) contractor was on their property. The contractor was locating underground utilities outside the normal road "right-of-way". It was suggested that if no one at the township office knew about this utility survey, they should speak with the "MISS DIG" contractor or the utility provider who requested the survey.

Old Business:

1). Julie Murphy provided copies to the Planning Commission members, of Solar, Wind, and Energy (battery) storage ordinances from Deerfield Township (Lenawee County Michigan) for their review. Anee Runyan also researched Wind Energy ordinance from Raisinville Township (Monroe County Michigan).

It was also announced that Mr. Kevin Martus will be sending out the current draft Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) ordinance guidelines concerning commercial scale Wind and Solar energy generated installations along with the (above provided) Deerfield Township ordinance(s) for township Planning Commission review. As of tonight's meeting, the MPSC has not formalized any draft ordinance outlines or guidelines for townships to follow when commercial scale energy generating systems are proposed.

The Deerfield Township strategy is to use their Township (Future Land Use) Master Plan to designate areas within their township as "Dedicated Energy Zones" used to direct any future commercial scale energy generating installations to specific locations. The planning commission members discussed this strategy if incorporated into the proposed Exeter Township Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS) and to amend the current township solar ordinance to be limited by the Exeter Township master Plan. It was noted that the current Exeter Township Master Plan is scheduled for review in 2025 but could be reviewed (and amended if needed) before then. Planning Commission members also discussed possible situation where a land owner (or multiple land owners) has already committed their property for future energy generating installation but would now be outside the (discussed / proposed) "Designated Energy Zones" per an amended township Master Plan.

A township residence commented that she was disappointed that the Planning Commission, by following this suggested course of action, was "surrendering" to those who would allow such larger scale installations to be brought into the township.

2). The current Exeter Township moratorium on accepting application for or construction of any WECS and Energy Storage facility will be expiring on August 16, 2024.

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- ❖ **Motion:** Julie Murphy, 2nd Tim DeBorde: To recommend to the Exeter Township Board, that the current moratorium on accepting application for and construction of any Commercial Scale Wind Energy generating system and any Energy Storage facility be extended for 180 days. **Motion carried.**

- ❖ **Motion:** Amee Runyan, 2nd Tim DeBorde: To table further discussion concerning the proposed Exeter Township Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) and commercial scale battery storage ordinances until the regularly scheduled August 2024 Planning Commission meeting. **Motion carried.**


New Business:

None

Second Public Comment:

1). The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Exeter Township Planning Commission will be held on August 6, 2024 beginning at 7:00 PM at the Exeter Township Hall.

- ❖ **Motion:** Amee Runyan, 2nd Tim DeBorde: To adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**
The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted, 
Roger Bezek, Secretary
Exeter Township Planning Commission