# Exeter Township Planning Commission Minutes And Public Hearing Minutes February 4, 2025

Exeter Township Planning Commission Chairperson, Tim DeBorde called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. An invocation was offered by a meeting attendee.

Roll Call:

Present:

Roger Bezek, Tim DeBorde, Charles Bruck, Julie Murphy, Amee Runyan,

and Anthony Thrasher

Absent/ Excused:

Guest:

Lucie Fortin, Exeter Township planner (with Mannik & Smith Group)

Notes:

There were 9 township residents in attendance.

# Correction / Approval of Agenda:

The Planning Commission members reviewed the meeting agenda.

- Motion: Amee Runyan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim DeBorde: To accept the Planning Commission / Public Hearing meeting agenda as presented.
   Motion carried.
- Motion: Roger Bezek, 2<sup>nd</sup> Julie Murphy: To recess the scheduled Planning Commission meeting and to call to order the Public Hearing at 7:15 PM

Motion carried.

# **Public Hearing:**

Exeter Township Planning Commission chairperson, Tim DeBorde called the public hearing to order. Planning Commission secretary, Roger Bezek, reported that notice of this public hearing was timely posted in the Monroe News.

A brief summary of the proposed Exeter Township zoning ordinance (draft dated 1/8/2025) creating (new) Section 5.16 titled "Battery Energy Storage Systems" within Article 5 "General Provisions" including any and all associated revisions including changes in definition and related sections within the Exeter Township Zoning Ordinance. This proposed ordinance would create regulations to apply for and requirements for installation and operation of "Commercial Scale Energy Storage (Battery) Facility" within Exeter Township.

- 1). Lucie Fortin, Exeter Township planner went over numerous changes, additions and deletions as recommended by the township attorney per her review of the draft ordinance (draft dated 1/8/2025). The township attorney recommended:
  - In draft ordinance section 2;
    - ✓ Article 3 Definitions: delete definition "Battery Management System" as not applicable.
  - In draft ordinance section 3;
    - ✓ Article 5 General Provisions, Section 5.16: paragraph 1 "General Requirements": replace sub-paragraph A with language from paragraph 4, sub-paragraph B "Installation"
    - ✓ Article 5 General Provisions, Section 5.16: paragraph 2 "Application Requirements" paragraph A line 4, replace the word "line" with the word "grid"
    - ✓ Article 5 General Provisions, Section 5.16: paragraph 3 "Site Development Requirements";
      - Replace paragraph E "Noise" with paragraph 4 sub-paragraph C "Noise".
      - Replace in paragraph H "Fire Protection" in the first sentence the word "will" with the word "shall" (to read...Township Fire Chief <u>shall</u> review the fire protection plan...) delete balance of paragraph (after the first sentence).
      - In paragraph K Decommissioning, in the second sentence replace wording with ...full restoration of the site to the satisfaction of the <u>Building</u> Official to pre-existing conditions."
      - In paragraph M "Extraordinary Events"; change wording to read...must notify the Township\_ <u>Supervisor</u> within 24 hours.
      - ➤ In paragraph P "Transferability"; add to end of the first sentence...a new owner providing that all financial guarantees and insurance are submitted."
    - ✓ Article 5 General Provisions, Section 5.16: paragraph 4 "Utility-Scale Battery Energy Storage System under PA 233";
      - Delete paragraph B and paragraph C (relocated in previous paragraphs) and re-number paragraph 4.

- In draft ordinance section 4
  - ✓ Article 7 AG, Agricultural/Residential District, section 7.03 "Special Land Use Approval"
    - Change wording line 23 to read...Utility-scale battery energy storage systems
- In draft ordinance section 5
  - ✓ Article 15 I-1, Industrial District, section 15.03 "Special Permitted Uses"
    - ➤ Change wording line 19 to read...Utility-scale battery energy storage systems...
- 2). Written comments.

  NONE submitted
- 3). Citizen / residents comments:

Residents asked why change were suggested draft ordinance section 2 which changed the word "line" to "grid" and why the planning commission felt this ordinance was "needed".

Motion: Amee Runyan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Anthony Thrasher: To adjourn the Public Hearing and to resume the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting at 8:20 PM Motion carried.

# Approval of Minutes:

Copies of the January 7, 2025 Planning Commission meeting minutes were provided to Planning Commission members.

Motion: Amee Runyan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Julie Murphy: To approve the January 7, 2025 Planning Commission meeting minutes as presented.
 Motion carried.

# First Public Comment:

Residents thanked the planning commission members for their continued efforts and work.

A formal letter of resignation from Gary Shamma has not yet been received by the township clerk.

# Old Business:

- 1). Consideration of comments received from public hearing.
  - ★ Motion: Roger Bezek, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amee Runyan: To table further discussion on the proposed "Commercial Scale Energy Storage (Battery) Facility" zoning ordinance until the regularly scheduled March 2025 Planning Commission meeting. Copies of the revised (final) draft of this proposed ordinance will be available at the Exeter Township Hall for public viewing and published to the township webpage.

Motion carried.

# New Business:

None

### Second Public Comment:

- 1). The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Exeter Township Planning Commission will be held on March 4, 2025 beginning at 7:00 PM at the Exeter Township Hall
  - Motion: Amee Runyan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Julie Murphy: To adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Bezek, Secretary

Exeter Township Planning Commission