

**SPRING LAKE TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES  
September 21, 2022 – REGULAR MEETING**

PRESENT: Harry Dyck, Kelly Clark, Jerry Rabideau, Russ Tiles, Greg Latsch, Sarah Somers  
ABSENT: Jack Ketchum  
PARTICIPANTS: Lukas Hill, Township Community Development Director

A meeting of the Spring Lake Township Planning Commission was held at Barber School, 102 W Exchange St, Spring Lake MI 49456.

**A. Call to Order**

Latsch called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**B. Approval of Agenda**

Somers made a motion, support by Tiles to approve the agenda as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

**C. Approval of Minutes**

Latsch made a motion, support by Clark to adopt the Planning Commission August 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

**D. Public Comments**

A time for public comment was provided. No comments were made.

**E. Master Plan**

Hill stated that he and Trustee Rabideau met with residents from the northwest area of the Township on September 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Master Plan. Hill stated that the main concern from residents was their desire to remain in an AG zoning district so that it is easier to keep a few farm animals, if desired. Hill explained that there currently is no interest by the Township to change the zoning and the future land use district for this area is not planned to be changed from Rural Residential. The main concern is the allowance for specialized farming in the AG district which everyone agreed should not be permitted anywhere in the Township. Hill reviewed his memo which suggested creating a “Light AG” future land use designation that would recognize the unique character of this area. Latch opened the floor to public comments:

Ruth Prein expressed her gratitude for the special meeting and listening to the people. She stated residents do not want development in this region of the Township. She felt there was poor communication by the Township about the master plan. She would like farm buildings and simple farm activities to still be allowed in this area.

Sandy Bergman said the land is low but the taxes are high and that the Township is planning to take rights away from the residents. Latsch explained that there is no intention of that and that chickens are still permitted.

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Birdella Hawkins stated she loves the rural character of the NW area of the Township and that people should be allowed to keep animals. She wished there was better community engagement by the Township on these matters.

Doris Jones wants the Township to protect these open spaces and wetlands in the area.

Audra Frein thanked the Planning Commission for listening to the people.

The Commission directed Hill to add a new Light AG future land use district in the Master Plan as per his memo. Clark made a motion to have the Township Attorney prepare a resolution of adoption for the Planning Commission to consider in October. Somers support the motion and it passed unanimously.

**F. Commissioner Comments**

1. Township Board: Trustee Rabideau mentioned that the Board adopted the Farmland Preservation Resolution, approved the Isard rezoning request, and the new community survey is being prepared.
2. ZBA: No ZBA report.
3. Community Development Director: Hill stated community engagement efforts should be reviewed and improved.

**I. Adjournment**

Tiles moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. Somers seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Planning Commission