

Hopkins Township Planning Commission  
Minutes Regular Meeting 1/22/2013

Planning Commission Members: Chair Lori Castello; Mark Forbes; Tadd Heft; Lee Murray; Mike Timmer; Chuck Wamhoff; Fred Morley

Members Present: Mark Forbes; Tadd Heft; Mike Timmer; Chuck Wamhoff; Fred Morley

Meeting Called to Order at: 7:00 PM Meeting Adjourned at: 8:00 PM

Location: Hopkins Township Office

- + Commission attendance noted above.
- + Zoning Administrator Kirk Scharphorn in attendance

**Agenda**

Call to Order

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Amendments and Adoption of Agenda.
- Approval of Minutes: **October 23, 2012** (emailed)
- Public Comment \*\*

**NEW Business:**

- I. Election of Planning Commission Officers for 2013
  - a. Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary
- II. Procedures for Handling Issues
  - a. Determine and Prioritize
  - b. Expert Advisors (for example)
  - c. Pick an Issue and Go
- III. Schedule More Meetings
- IV. Update from Zoning Administrator

**OLD/CONTINUING Business:**

- I. Master Plan
  - a. Original District Designation
  - b. Changes or Not
- II. Home Occupations Ordinance
  - a. Proposed Ordinance Changes
- III. Energy Issues
  - a. Wind
  - b. Other
- IV. Fracking
- V. Any Other Business to Come Before the Planning Commission

Commissioners Comment:  
Adjournment

Public Comment:\*\*The Planning Commission reserves the right to limit comments to three (3) minutes, or a total of 30 minutes per meeting.

**Agenda Items**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**MOTION:** A motion was made and supported to accept the Agenda as presented. This motion was approved.

**MOTION:** A motion was made and supported to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2012 meeting previously emailed to commissioners. This motion was approved.

**NEW Business:**

I. Election of Planning Commission Officers for 2013

**MOTION:** A motion was made and supported to elect Lori Castello chair, Mark Forbes vice chair and Fred Morley secretary for 2013. This motion was approved.

II. Procedures for Handling Issues, etc

Most items listed on the agenda were discussed as the meeting progressed. Four specific issues were put at the priority list. They are: Home Occupation Ordinance: “fracking”; Wind Ordinance; and Master Land Use Plan. Priority issues may change as other issues come up.

The Home Occupation Ordinance was ranked at the top. Discussion items included: the document titled “Home Occupations “ that was handed out at the August 14, 2012 meeting, later modified, sent to the Township Board and sent back to the Planning Commission; the need to communicate on this issue with the Township Board, Zoning Administrator Scharphorn will contact Township Supervisor Evans on this; what other jurisdictions are doing on this issue and comparing our draft with these other jurisdictions; our goal is to hold a public hearing on the Home Occupation Ordinance at the regular meeting on April 23, 2013.

**We will have a meeting February 19, 2013 at 7:00 PM to deal with the Home Occupation Ordinance.**

The next priority is the issue of “fracking”, the drilling process used in extracting oil and gas. It appears that the Township can regulate issues indirectly associated with the use of this process, like storage, roads and housing workers. We need to look at what other jurisdictions are doing on “fracking”. Commissioner Heft will look into obtaining what other townships have done on this.

**We scheduled a meeting for March 12, 2013 at 7:00 PM to deal with “fracking” in Hopkins Township.**

Other priorities are a Wind Power Ordinance and completing the review of the Master Land Use Plan. At this point, the Wind Power Ordinance is not a pressing issue. We are waiting for information we need from the County to move forward on the Master Plan review.

Other issues discussed: we need to be proactive in dealing with Township planning issues; we have scheduled additional meetings to deal with issues; information about casino activities; and outdoor wood burners.

**MOTION:** At 8:00 PM a motion was made and supported to adjourn. This motion was approved.

Submitted by:

Fred Morley, Secretary

Hopkins Township Planning Commission

Minutes approved: March 12, 2013