

**Van Buren County Planning Commission**  
219 E Paw Paw Street, Suite 201, Paw Paw, MI 49079  
Telephone (269) 657-8253 Fax (269) 657-0579

**August 23, 2023**  
**6:30 PM**

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order & Attendance**

In attendance; Kurt Doroh,, Celinda Gilmore, Tony Hemenway Tom Motycka, Jan Petersen, Barbara Rose,  
Pam Sterner, Tyler Augst from MSUE

Absent: Scott Cedarquist, Alyssa Hosbein, Ray Martin, William Pugsley,

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Doroh motion to approve; Sterner support. Motion carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes from August 23, 2023**

Motion to approve. Support. Motion carried.

**4. Public Comment** None.

**5. Reports**

- a. County Commissioner – Kurt Doroh reports internet coverage still absent in parts of City of South Haven, South Haven Township, Paw Paw Township and Antwerp Township; VBCO working with Michigan Regional Housing Partnership on housing study.
- b. Land Preservation – No meeting.
- c. Southwestern Michigan Commission – Kurt Doroh reports the transition from Michigan Solid Waste to Materials Management plans were discussed by Bekah Schrag, associate planner; also the collaboration with Van Buren Cass Health Department on Eat Well, Be Well effort; and updates on transportation funding changes.
- d. Local visits – Petersen to American Farmland Trust farm preservation program. Motycka to Decatur Township, also reports Hamilton Township working on residential solar ordinance.

**6. Old Business**

- a. Training Opportunities – T. Augst will present training on board member roles and responsibilities at November meeting, with other municipalities invited to attend. He also shared flyers on upcoming MSUE classes.

- b. Coordination of Local Visits – Motion to postpone coordination of local visits. Motykca support. Motion carries.
- c. Lawton Master Plan Review – Motion to concur with the Lawton Master Plan with a recommendation that they review for consistency, accuracy and grammar. Support Stermer. Motion carries.

## **7. New Business**

- a. Charter Township of South Haven Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment –T. Augst verified with Tasha Smiley that the township held their public hearing. Motykca motion to concur with text amendment. Doroh support. Motion carries.
- b. PA 116 Application Hamilton Township– Doroh motion to not concur with the application because it did not meet the eligibility requirements for a Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program Farmland Agreement.
- c. Request to meet with Solar Company – Petersen to invite company to regularly scheduled board meeting.

## **8. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned by Petersen, Chair at 7:17pm

**Next meeting:** September 27, 2023, at 6:30pm

Minutes by Gilmore and Petersen