

**Charter Township of Filer
Minutes of the Planning Commission Regular Meeting
Held on October 18, 2016**

Present: Jennifer Williams, Roger Dittmer, Richard Mark, Shirley Ball, Linda Rogers and Karen Kolk.

Absent: Christa Johnson

Also present: Lynn Kooyers, Zoning Administrator, Terry Walker, Township Supervisor and Tamara Buswinka, Filer Township DDA Director

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Mark

Motion by Williams, seconded by Rogers to approve the September 20, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All in favor. M/C

Bicycle Passing Ordinance

Bicycle passing ordinances have recently been adopted in several Michigan cities. Sample ordinances from the cities of Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo were discussed. It was noted that large cities already have traffic flow ordinances in place, which allows them to insert bicycle passing rules into their existing ordinances. Filer Township does not own any streets, and does not have a traffic flow ordinance. If a new bicycle passing ordinance was created, it would be developed as a stand- alone police power ordinance, which would require enforcement by the County Sheriff.

Christa Johnson entered the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Planning Commission members agreed that enforcement of a bicycle passing ordinance would be difficult. It will only be done when the County Sheriff is available and will probably not be seen as a high priority. It was suggested that walkers should also be included as their safety is also an issue. It was stated that education is the key. Many motorists do not realize that bicyclists have the right to ride on the paved road. They are not required to ride on the shoulder of the road. It was agreed that requiring a 5 ft. passing distance on all roads at all posted speed limits would be the most effective approach.

Christa Johnson will prepare a basic bicycle passing ordinance for review at the November Planning Commission meeting.

Johnson left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Karen Kolk reported on the October 10th Manistee Trail Committee meeting that she attended. Rob Carson, County Planner also sent Filer his detailed meeting report which included maps of the three priority projects.

- Pine River Loop
- Connecting The Betsie Valley Trail through Copemish to Kaleva
- Extending Zimmerman Trail to the North, past M-22.

Reports

Zoning Administrator's report and Township Board Meeting Minutes were received.

Supervisor Walker informed the Commission that the second Sewer Assessment District Public Hearing was held on October 12th. He reported that Pine Ridge residents may be reconsidering their position to opt out of the sewer project.

Clerk Ball reported that Filer's Sign Regulations-Amendments were introduced by the Filer Township Board of Trustees at their October 4th meeting.

Tamara Buswinka, Filer Township DDA Director, enquired about the status of the RFP she prepared which recommended seeking assistance to update the Commercial District section of Filer's Zoning Ordinance. The RFP prepared by Tamara in April 2016 was not shared with the Planning Commission at that time. Chairman Mark requested that Buswinka provide a copy of the RFP to be included on the Planning Commission Agenda for the November meeting.

Communications

9/23/16 Letter received from Rob Carson, County Planner, regarding sign Ordinance Amendments was discussed.

Public Comment

None were received.

Motion by Kolk, seconded by Williams to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Dittmer, Secretary
Charter Township of Filer Planning Commission