

Mansfield Township Planning Commission

Minutes for Meeting – January 23, 2025

Russell Bauwens, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an invocation by Mike Carey.

Attendees: Russ Bauwens, Jeff Tushoski, Mike Carey, John Gilner, George McCumber, and Guest –Robb Anderson

Absent: Pam Minerick

Mike Carey made a motion to approve the previous minutes of the meeting from September 24, 2024, and seconded by John Gilner. Motion carried.

Russell Bauwens revised the agenda from the one previously emailed to the members. Mike Carey made a motion to approve the agenda while Jeff Tushoski issued a second. Motion carried.

The next point of business was election of Officers for the Mansfield Township Planning Commission for 2025. Russell Bauwens was nominated for Chairman and John Gilner was nominated for Secretary. The Commission members approved each with unanimous vote.

Russell introduced our quest, Robb Anderson from GEI Consultants, to meet with the Planning Commission members. Robb explained what the firm will be doing to assist the Planning Commission prepare for update and revisions to the Master Plan. The Master Plan update is due next year and the Planning Commission has begun work to have the update ready. Open discussion resumed to understand what input GEI will provide and what information GEI needs from the Planning Commission to prepare an Updated Master Plan. Members renewed discussion regarding doing a survey to obtain input from Mansfield residents. Opinions were mixed as to the effectiveness of doing a survey. Logistics for doing a mailing and website questionnaire were discussed. John Gilner asked Robb (GEI) if other townships that they provided consulting for master plan updates had done surveys for input. Robb's answer was no. Rob stated that GEI will provide updated census data.

Russell Bauwens relayed from Pam Minerick that there was no zoning report.

John Gilner provided an Ordinance Enforcement Report. John has been working with the Township Board on two Junk and Blighted Properties Ordinance Violations. John summarized the violations and the action of each of the violators. John also explained the Township Board is having difficulty determining the next steps in the process in relationship with the Ordinance. The Township Board will be developing a policy, probably, similar to Sagola Township's. John explained that we will have to revise the Junk and Blighted Structures Ordinance to comply with the policy developed by the Board. The current Ordinance states that the fine or other costs will be mailed by the assessor. The new policy is expected to have the Ordinance Enforcement Officer notify violators of the fines and costs. John also pointed out a discrepancy between the Light Ordinance and the Blight Ordinance in the wording for filing a complaint that will need correction. Some discussion followed.

Russell Bauwens identified the following goals this year for the Commission as follows:

Continue discussion regarding a Township Survey

Review Chapters 3 and 4 of the Master Plan for the next meeting

Township Board requested the Commission to review all the ordinances for removal or revisions.

Russell will access the cloud storage files to obtain all the ordinances for Commission members.

Russell Bauwens announced the planned dates for this year's Commission's meetings:

April 3rd 4:00 pm

August 7th 4:00 pm

November 6th 4:00 pm

Mike Carey made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Jeff Tushoski. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.