

SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

January 10, 2011

The Saugatuck Township Planning Commission held a workshop on January 10, 2011, at the township hall on Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck, Michigan 49453.

Present: Conklin, Edris, Hanson, Milauckas, Rausch and Rowe

Absent: Darpel

Also present: Planner Sisson, R. J. Peterson and Sheldon Wettack.

Chair Edris called the Tri-Community Plan workshop meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. The agenda was expanded to include discussion of the Allegan County Master Plan and a memo from Sisson on boundary lines.

Public comment: R. J. Peterson listed three items not considered on the last update of the Tri-Community Plan: Consolidation of the three governments, the Harbor, and Denison North. Edris replied that the Harbor and Denison North have been identified already and the idea of consolidation will be added. He said there will be a public hearing on whatever changes there are to the Tri-Community Plan, and Peterson would be able to give his input then. Public comment was closed (Hanson/Conklin).

Edris invited the Commissioners to proceed with the review of the Tri-Community Plan chapter by chapter, beginning with **Chapter 1**, where (**page 1-16**) the “Complete Streets” definition provided by Rowe could be added as a second policy, and a second goal related to “Complete Streets” will be provided by Sisson. Renewable energy language provided by Conklin would be included as an additional policy under Energy (**page 1-18**).

Chapter 2 – Demographics from the latest census are not available, but Hanson said there was a special census of the Township in 2005 which showed a population of 2996, and there is an estimate for the three communities for 2009. Milauckas suggested simply adding a paragraph providing these figures, and Sisson added that the possible effects of population increase should be included.

Chapter 3 - Economics affected by downturn in the economy could be reflected: for instance, the SEV table **page 3-4**.

Chapter 4 – Sheldon Wettack, 2993 Lakeshore Drive, suggested including effects of climate change on the area and methods to react to that (**page 4-1**), and Sisson agreed to write the paragraph. Sisson said references to the information in the JJR report on the Denison property and in Dayle Harrison’s report on the environmental effects on the Kalamazoo River should be included in this section (**page 4-18**). The list of land owners on **page 1-14** should be updated. Standards for septic systems (**page 4-11 and 4-12**) should be investigated with the County to see if changes have been made. A statement could be included (**page 4-23**) to the effect that the DNR has proposed to expand the critical dune designation, which Hanson agreed to provide.

Chapter 5 – Since the information in the table on **page 5-3** is so old, Sisson suggested adjusting it by referring to the Township map. A paragraph describing the increase in home building since 1996 could be added (**page 5-1**) with a statement that they were built on non-agricultural land, which could also be reflected on **page 5-6** under Prime Farmlands and Residential. Hanson will update the 1st paragraph **page 5-7** to reflect the change in the Denison property. Another historic site was mentioned, the First Congregational Church, for the table on **page 5-12**.

Chapter 6 – It was decided to check county drains to see if they are represented accurately on **pages 6-5 and 6-6**. In Non-motorized Transportation **page 6-15**, mention should be made of the trails that have already been constructed. The reference to the Township Constable, the last sentence in the first paragraph about Police **page 6-16** should be deleted.

Chapter 7 – Sisson said the information on recreation and parks should come from the Parks Commission of the Township. Conklin said recreation was turned over to the schools. The section will have to be revised to reflect the new areas added, mostly in the city, and deletion of some references to acquiring Denison property. It is hoped that there is a more recent Table 7-4.

Chapter 8 – Edris suggested checking on Table 8-3 **pages 8-10 and 8-11** to see if changes have taken place with respect to the EPA Super Fund process. Information on the Harbor Committee should be included **page 8-14 and 8-15**.

Edris brought the discussion to a close with plans for completing this review at the next workshop. He said he has a draft of the 2010 Allegan County Master Plan and there will be a set of maps in the office. Sisson explained the information he has provided on making zoning coincide with parcel lot lines, which will be taken up at the January 24 meeting.

The next workshop is tentatively set for 4:30 to 6:00 P.M. January 31.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M. The next regular meeting is 7:00 P.M. January 24.

Betty A. White, Recording Secretary

Sandra Rausch, Secretary