

Pine Grove Township

Planning Commission

Regular Meeting

26520 CR 388, Gobles, MI 49055

March 20, 2023 6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chair Kehoe
2. **Roll Call: Present:** Kehoe, Hill, d. Marculis, Richardson, Brown, Yaple, K. Marculis
Also Present: Rebecca Harvey
3. **Approval of Agenda for March 20, 2023:** *Motion by Brown, supported by Hill to approve the agenda. All yes, motion carried.*
4. **Approval of Minutes for February 20, 2023:** *Motion by Brown, supported by Richardson to approve the Minutes as presented. All yes, motion carried.*
5. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** NONE
6. **New Business:** NONE
7. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** NONE
8. **Old Business:**
 1. **Master Plan Review w/ Rebecca Harvey:** Rebecca Harvey and PC reviewed Master Plan page 22 through the end of the book with the possible revisions identified at February's meeting.

4.5 Renewable Energy – another lengthy discussion. **REBECCA WILL PROVIDE EXAMPLE TEXT NEXT MEETING**

Revisions Identified: 5.0 Community Facilities

Page 22, last paragraph, last sentence: *It is recommended that persons seeking additional information about soils consult the Soil Survey of Van Buren County issued in September of 1996 while the information in this survey was taken from field studies in the early 1980s, the information remains relevant.* **Question: Is this statement still relevant, has there been any additional soil samples? REBECCA WILL CHECK AND REPORT BACK AT APRIL'S MEETING**

Page 24, third paragraph, second to last sentence: The location and protection.....as should compliance with the requirements of the Department of Environmental Quality. **Question: What is their official title now, it seems to change frequently. EGLE – MICHIGAN DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES AND ENERGY**

Page 26, fourth paragraph, numbers of students in the schools need to be updated. Does the current census cover these numbers? **ELIMINATE THE STUDENT #'S FROM MASTER PLAN AS THEY CHANGE FREQUENTLY**

Page 27, 5.2 Recreation Facilities: The facility is jointly maintained by the City and Township and includes..... **REVISION: The facility is maintained by the Cityit is not jointly maintained. BECAUSE THE PARK IS NOT IN PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP, ELIMINATE COMPLETELY**

Rebecca discussed having a Parks and Rec Plan for the township which would allow the township to apply for grants for monies to help with township parks. Then the Master Plan would not include parks and recreation information.

Page 27, 5.2 Recreation Facilities, second paragraph...Timber Ridge...(offers....

Revision: offers 8 ski lifts, two terrain parks and a tubing park with a moving sidewalk lift and 9 tube lanes. The terrain parks range from beginner to advanced, 20 trails at easy or intermediate levels.
REBECCA WILL UPDATE

Page 27, Public Safety, first sentence: ...which is made up of volunteers from both the Township and the City of Gobles. **Revision:which is made up of paid on call for the fire fighters from the service area.** (service area is the southern half of Trowbridge Twp and the northern half of Almena Twp. and a sliver of Waverly Twp. are in the Pine Grove/Gobles Fire Department service area.) **First sentence change to 'PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP IS SERVED BY THE GOBLES PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT IS MAE UP OF PAID, ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS, AND ALSO SERVES THE CITY OF GOBLES AND PORTIONS OF TROWBRIDGE, ALMENA, AND WAVERLY TOWNSHIPS.**

Page 27, Police protection is..... Revision: Pine Grove Township now contracts one Sheriff Deputy for 10 hours per week who also acts as Pine Grove Ordinance Enforcement Officer. **DO NOT ADD THIS**

Page 28, 5.5 Utilities, Natural gas (limited), electricity, and telephone.....**ADD LIMITED**

ADD: Bloomingdale Communication LLC offers high speed fiber optics.

Page 29, second paragraph, Pine Grove Township has several roads that are worthy

IS THIS STILL A THING AND HAS IT EVER BEEN NOMINATED: REBECCA WILL CHECK ON THIS AND REPORT BACK

Page 29. 5.8 Cemeteries, second paragraph, third line, requires the help of a crew of workers called the "alternative work force" **DELETE THIS SENTENCE**

6.0 Goals and Objectives

Page 32. g. Create a noise ordinance..... **Wait until Rebecca is here to guide the decision** but many advise to delete. **Another lengthy discussion on a noise ordinance, LEAVE IN THE MASTER PLAN, IT STILL NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE TOWNSHIP**

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICE GOAL

e. Develop a plan and cost analysis for the provision of public water service to Kendall, Brandywine Lake and North Lake. **Question for Board: is this or ever have been looked into as something PG is actually going to do?** A lengthy discussion, **KEEP THIS IN MASTER PLAN**

g. Nominate Township roadways with natural beauty and rural character.....Question for Board: is something PG is going to do? REBECCA WILL CHECK TO SEE IF THIS IS STILL A THING

i. Develop a capital improvement program that facilitates the enhancement of Township buildings and lands. (Township Hall) **Question for Board: Where is the township on this?**

Need to add: Develop a plan and cost analysis for provisions for future fire department equipment and trucks and lands.

Question for Board: Is there a Capital Improvement Plan program for Pine Grove Township.

8.0 FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION: 8.1 INTRODUCTION: NEEDS UPDATES AS IT STATED OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS – ASK REBECCA FOR INPUT LEAVE IN AS IT IS

Page 47: lots of data that need to be updated probably – ASK REBECCA FOR INPUT AS 2002 IS THE YEAR FOR MUCH OF THE DATE, THAT IS OVER 20 YEARS. **REBECCA HAS DONE THIS**

Page 51, Map #5 PA 116 Enrolled Lands – **QUESTION: Should this be updated? HILL WILL CONTACT THE ASSESSOR IN REGARDS TO THIS to see if any more lands have been enrolled since 2017.**

Page 53, 9.1 Zoning, second paragraph The Zoning Map should be reviewed on an annual basis....**Question: is this being done and by whom? Rebecca stated that that is not a common practice (annual review) TAKE OUT REBECCA WILL REVISE THE PARAGRAPH**

Page 58, third paragraph, again talks about the Township developing and implementing a capital improvement plan. **ADDRESSED ABOVE.**

Rebecca handed out chapters 1-3 with all the revisions for the PC to go over again before next meeting.

9. **Commission Comments:** D. Marculis requested that the July 17th meeting be changed to July 10th for family vacation reasons. Rebecca Harvey stated that she was available on the 10th. *Motion made by Kehoe, supported by D. Marculis to change the mandatory July Planning Commission meeting from July 17th to July 10th. All yes, motion carried.* Secretary Marculis will make the appropriate changes to the Township calendar on the website and postings.

10. **Adjournment:** Motion made by Richardson, supported by Yaple to adjourn. All yes, motion carried. Adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Next Meeting(s): 2023: April 10th, May 15th, June 19th, July 17th, Aug 21st, Sept 18th, Oct 16th, Nov 20th, Dec. 18th

All meetings: 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully,

Deborah Marculis

Deborah Marculis, Secretary, Pine Grove Twp. Planning Commission