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Douglass Township Planning Commission
3521 West McBrides Rd
Stanton, MI 48888
989-762-8014
Public Hearing Minutes
July 12, 2023
7 pm

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 7 pm by PC Chairman Rick Baldwin.

Pledge Of Allegiance

Roll Call

- Present: Eric Tester, Jon Bailey, Melissa Bannen, Rick Baldwin, Mike Swan, Matt Moorman, Kathy Craig
- Absent: none

Purpose of Public Hearing

- Rick Baldwin explained the purpose of the public hearing: to review, gather public input, and take potential action on the proposed draft of the Solar Energy Systems ordinance.

Public Comments:

- Rick Baldwin opened public comment at 7:01 pm.
- One comment was received, from Linda Reynolds of Douglass Township, thanking the PC for the work on the ordinance.
- Rick Baldwin closed public comment at 7:02 pm.

Further Commission Discussion/Action:

- Concern was raised regarding the greenbelt screening in the residential SES Level 1 (Section 3.e) and the possibility it is too cost prohibitive.
- PC members discussed this concern, reviewing the reasons for including the language in that section.
- Discussion points included Pine Township's ordinance for comparison, protecting neighbors, cost of the screening, options for screening, waivers, and safety.
- PC members reached consensus that the concerns are addressed by the waiver language in the greenbelt screening paragraph for Level 1 systems.
- There is one grammatical change to be made in Section 3.e.
- Motion made by Eric Tester to send solar ordinance draft to Montcalm County Planning Commission and the Douglass Township Board, with the grammatical change. Motion seconded by Matt Moorman. Roll call vote: Kathy Craig: yes Matt Moorman: yes Mike Swan: yes Rick Baldwin: yes Melissa Bannen: yes Jon Bailey: yes Eric Tester: yes Motion carried.

Adjourn

- Motion made by Eric Tester to adjourn Public Hearing, seconded by Mike Swan. Voice vote: aye: 7 Nay: 0 motion carried.
- Public Hearing adjourned at 7:19 pm by Chairman Rick Baldwin.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Craig
Douglass Township Planning Commission Secretary