



Birch Run Township Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 20th, 2024
11935 Silver Creek Dr., Birch Run, Michigan 48415

Call to Order of Meeting:

Vice-Chair Mike Marr called the August 20th, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Birch Run Township Planning Commission (PC) to order at 19:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present:

Mike Marr, Vice-Chair; Mike Musial, Secretary; Fred Sheridan & Ed Munson, Members. There is one vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Members C.J. Norris and Keith Jewell were absent.

Motion by Marr seconded by Sheridan to excuse Norris and Munson from the meeting.
Motion PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

Others Present:

___ (___) people were in the audience. Also present were Gretchen Nielsen, Zoning Administrator; Riley Kiessling, Recording Secretary.

Agenda:

Motion by Sheridan seconded by Marr to approve the August 20th, 2024, Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.
Motion PASSED by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Sheridan seconded by Musial to approve the July 17th, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
Motion PASSED by unanimous roll call vote.

Election of Officers:

To be done at the first meeting of 2025.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: 19:02 – 19:04

Public Comment was held.

Public Hearing(s):

None

New Business:

Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance (CREO):

Discussion included:

- Removing the listed Energy Storage Definition from the CREO.
- Making the Small-Scale Solar & Wind more uniform (less than, more than 50').
- Reconciling Section 3 with Section 4 and making terminology the same (Facility over Farm).

Event Barn Ordinance:

Currently, there is no minimum lot size in the Ordinance. Draft ordinance provided with added language for the 5+ acre and 200' buffer to nearby occupied dwellings requirements. Determined it was ready for the public hearing.

Old Business:

Short-Term Rentals (STR) Ordinance:

The PC continued its discussion on STR's. They began discussing Fire-safety regulations but determined that would all be included in applicable fire/building codes already, especially for +2,000 square foot homes which would be required to put in a fire suppression system. Disallowing the use of fireworks on the premises of STR's was added, as well as a 300' buffer from STR to STR. The previous requirement of copies of insurance being provided was struck – an affidavit stating the applicant has the insurance replaced it.

Parking in Setbacks:

Per previous discussions, a draft copy of the ordinance was presented, showing the additions to Table 9-4 by adding language to #9 and adding footnote #10.

Public Comment: 19:26 – 19:45

Public Comment was held.

Jorge Garcia asked questions of the Planning Commission.

Other:

None.

Adjournment:

Motion by Sheridan seconded by Jewell to adjourn at 19:46

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Recording Secretary, Riley Kiessling

Mike Musial

Planning Commission Secretary