



DRAFT
-COPY-

*Approved by: _____
Larry Grunn, *Chairperson*

Date: _____

**MARION TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2023 - 7:30PM**

PC MEMBERS PRESENT: **LARRY GRUNN - CHAIRPERSON**
 JIM ANDERSON - VICE CHAIRPERSON
 CHERYL RANGE - SECRETARY
 BRUCE POWELSON
 BOB HANVEY

MEMBERS ABSENT: **NONE**

OTHERS PRESENT: **DAVID HAMANN - MARION TWP. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**
 ZACK MICHELS - PLANNER W/ CARLISLE WORTMAN



CALL TO ORDER

Larry Grunn called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bruce Powelson made a motion to approve the January 24, 2023 agenda as presented. Jim Andersen seconded. **MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim Anderson made a motion to approve the December 20, 2022 Planning Commission minutes. Bruce Powelson seconded. **MOTION CARRIED**

Cheryl Range stated that her 2022 Annual Planning Commission minutes were submitted to the Board of Trustees and the Planning Commission on January 11, 2023.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Numerous residents expressed their disappointment with Marion Township officials due to issues related to Solar Farms. They wish they had known about the meetings pertaining to Solar Farms. They want Marion Township to prohibit all Marion Township property owners from allowing Solar Farms on their property.

Jim Anderson explained that despite the comments being made on social media, his last name is spelled Anders**on** and not to be confused with Anders**en**. Neither him or his family own farm land in Marion Township and they have not entered any type of contract or agreement regarding Solar Farms.

Residents requested that they receive individual postcards or invitations to all Marion Township meetings. The Commissioners explained to them, that all Township meeting dates can be found on our website www.mariontownship.com, and on our Facebook page. On the Township's website you will also find the meeting agendas and packets for all Township meetings, which are posted at least one week before the scheduled meeting date.

Bob Hanvey explained that there is currently a moratorium in place which is set to expire in March of 2023. Zack Michels (Township's Planner with Carlisle Wortman) stated that he would try and address some of the questions and concerns from the residents. He explained that in every Township/City there are publication requirements that must be followed when holding a public meeting. Marion Township has met all of these requirements. There is also a certain process that has to

be followed when creating ordinance language and the Planning Commission followed this process when creating the language for our solar farm ordinance. Since October of 2021, the Commissioners have worked on this language during at least 12 public meetings. This topic was listed on the agenda for each of these meetings and the agenda was published on our website, prior to the meeting date. Recently the Commissioners agreed to send this language to the Livingston County Planning Department and the Township Attorney for review and comment. Once those comments were reviewed by the Commissioners, they made some minor updates and then turned it over to the Board of Trustees for their review and final decision.

Zack explained that this ordinance contains several regulations that would help protect existing and future wildlife. It also contains strict regulations regarding decommissioning, screening, minimum lot sizes, set-back requirements and more.

Bruce Powelson made a motion to extend the Marion Township Planning Commission meeting since we have reached 9:30pm. Cheryl Range seconded. **MOTION CARRIED**

Zach welcomed residents to provide the Township with their feedback in a constructive way, by citing the specific parts of the ordinance they do not like and provide us with and alternate suggestion.

➤ **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

TXT #04-22 CONTINUE PDR ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

Cheryl Range motioned to postpone action on this agenda item. Jim Anderson seconded. Bruce Powelson voted against this motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

REVIEW SPREADSHEET & DETERMINE WORK PLAN FOR 2023

Cheryl Range motioned to postpone action on this agenda item. Larry Grunn seconded. Bruce Powelson voted against this motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

➤ **SPECIAL ORDERS:**

BUDGET REVIEW FOR INVOICES

Cheryl Range motioned to postpone action on this agenda item. Bob Harvey seconded. Bruce Powelson voted against this motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

➤ **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

HANDOUT FROM BRUCE ON CRYPTO MINE

Cheryl Range motioned to postpone action on this agenda item. Jim Anderson seconded. Bruce Powelson voted against this motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

Larry Grunn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05pm. Jim Anderson seconded. **MOTION CARRIED**