

**WATERVLIET CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 3, 2017**

Present: Joseph Stepich, Duane Bodfish, Kevin Schuhknecht, Colleen Curtis, Glen Gianetti, Joseph Frontczak, Scott McKee.

Also Present: None

Chairman Schuhknecht called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken.

The minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting were read. C. Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes as read. G. Gianetti seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

J. Stepich began the meeting with a continuation of the Master Plan update. He noted that at the last meeting the Planning Commission compiled a list of assets and liabilities the Township possessed. He said that what the Commission should discuss at this meeting is establishing goals and devise ways of obtaining those goals. He told the Commission that goals should be specific, but not too specific; they should be measurable and obtainable and they should be achieved within a pre-determined length of time. Stepich presented a work sheet that provided examples of goals from three different townships. He explained that the Commission should review Watervliet's goals, as stated in the current Master Plan, then refer to the work sheet.

K. Schuhknecht relayed the fact that the township's current list of goals states that the Township should maintain its single family home owner character. J. Stepich questioned if that could even be considered a goal as the directive is to do nothing more than maintain the status quo coupled with the fact that it is not even measurable. Stepich continued by suggesting that the Commission should avoid using vague, indeterminate language or words such as "maintain" or "seek." He added that more concise and specific language should be used; "We want to put a stake in the ground," he stated.

Through further discussion, the Commission compiled a tentative list of goals. Those are: 1. Increase the tax base. 2. Increase residential development. 3. Preserve the rural setting. 4. Increase commercial development. 5. Increase industrial development. 6. Develop recreational areas. 7. Initiate a study to merge certain services with the City of Watervliet, the City of Coloma and Coloma Township. 9. Develop community facilities and services, and; 10. Focus on senior citizen accommodation through services with an eye on a comprehensive transportation system.

Planning Commission - October 3, 2017

The Commission agreed that public input would be of paramount importance with, perhaps, focus groups dealing with specific elements of the plan. But, as Stepich pointed out, the Commission should have a fixed, specific set of projected goals in place first to present to the public, then invite the public in for evaluation and opinions.

With there being no further business before the Commission C. Curtis made a motion to adjourn. G. Gianetti seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lohr", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Lohr  
Zoning Administrator