

**WATERVLIET CHARTER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

Present: Joseph Stepich, Colleen Curtis, Glen Gianetti, Kevin Schuhknecht

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

Roll Call was taken.

The minutes of the August 1, 2017 meeting were read. C. Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes as read. G. Gianetti seconded and the motion carried.

J. Stepich presented a pamphlet regarding a Michigan Townships Association seminar dealing with the topic of "Creating a Vision For Your Township" and asked if any of the Commission members, or any one else, would be interested in attending. C. Curtis, G. Gianetti, K. Schuhknecht and D. Householder, as well as J. Stepich, all committed to attending.

Master Plan Up Date 2017

As an official kick-off of the Master Plan update, J. Stepich led the Commission in discussion, as a preliminary step, of compiling a list of assets and liabilities the Township possesses. For assets, the Commission cited the airport, lake/river, walking and bike trails, the hospital, the Township's location at the intersection of I-94, M-140 & Red Arrow Hwy., and the Watervliet School system. Other things noted are an agricultural area rich in diversity; a close proximity to attractive locations such as St. Joseph, South Haven, South Bend and Saugatuck, as well as land that was readily available for commercial, industrial and agricultural uses.

Liabilities noted were a general population that was, for the most part, apathetic and comfortable with the status quo, limited access to the lake and a growing over congestion of the lake shoreline, however, Commissioner Gianetti disagreed with this assertion stating that the homes make the lake more attractive and that people should be able to build the homes they want. Another liability noted was the aesthetic appearance of downtown Watervliet itself.

J. Stepich suggested that the Commission should familiarize themselves with other neighboring community master plans and look at their goals and objectives. Stepich said that he would type up the asset / liability list that was compiled and hand it out to the Commission. He requested that they review the list and add to it if anything else should come to mind. He also asked the Commissioners to review the current Township Master

Plan and decide what elements are still relevant and which ones are not.

With there being no further business to come before the Commission, J. Stepich made a motion to adjourn. G. Gianetti seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lohr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert Lohr
Zoning Administrator