

**WATERVLIET CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**  
**MAY 7, 2019**

Present: Kevin Schuhknecht, Colleen Curtis, Deanna Heminger, Joseph Stepich.

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

Roll Call by Joseph Stepich.

At 2:05 the minutes from the April 15, 2019 were discussed. D. Heminger made a motion to approve the minutes as read. C. Curtis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

At 2:06 J. Stepich made a motion to move into the public hearing. C. Curtis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. With zero in attendance for public comment J. Stepich made the motion to close the public hearing and move back into the regular session at 2:07 p.m.. C Curtis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

J. Stepich opened the discussion on the Master Plan 2018 and the positive feedback received from surrounding municipalities. He commended the planning commission members for a job well done. K. Schuhknecht made mention of the excellent results produced by Joe Stepich, Robert Lohr, and Diana Householder in their combined efforts in the writing and finalization of the master plan document. After further discussion J. Stepich made a motion to submit the final version of the Master Plan 2018 to the Township board for approval. C. Curtis seconded at 2:21 p.m. and a roll call vote resulted as follows: D. Heminger, yea; C. Curtis, yea; J. Stepich, yea; K. Schuhknecht, yea.

The topic of discussion went on to the ordinance for medical marihuana facilities. J. Stepich stated that he is confident that the ordinance requiring a 100 ft. distance from residential areas would pass the Township Board, although one or more of the board members have stated that they are not in favor of such. C. Curtis stated that she sought out and spoke with property owners in the residential area directly behind the strip mall bordering the property line of the commercially zoned area which could potentially house a medical marihuana facility. C. Curtis advised the residents of the public hearings being held. She also pointed out to the residents the difference between the medical and recreational marihuana and that the township is only allowing medical marihuana at this time. J. Stepich added that he has had comparable conversations with residents in which he explained the differences between the two voter-initiated laws, pointing out the similarities in pharmacies and dispensaries. Furthermore, adding that he also urged residents to participate in the public the hearings, as the Township Board members and the Planning Commission members would like to see more community involvement in the public hearings regarding the subject of medical marihuana. After further

discussion regarding the properties in which the medical marijuana will be allowed the Planning commission members agreed to support the recommendation of a facility to be at a distance of 100 ft from residential area property lines. J. Stepich stated that whatever the distance is decided upon then that is the distance that needs to be upheld, therefore not in a position where for example the distance is 200 ft and then allow someone with a special land use permit to be at 150 ft. After final discussion the planning commission members supported the draft ordinance regulating the distance of 100 ft from residential areas. J. Stepich also added that the Township Supervisor would like to get the medical marihuana approved at the May 2019 meeting and make a decision regarding recreational marihuana at the June 2019 meeting.

With no further business before the Commission, C. Curtis made a motion to adjourn. K. Schuhknecht seconded and that motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diana Householder  
Administrative Assistant