

County of Antrim - Planning Commission

Dawn LaVanway, Secretary
Barbara Bradford
Kenny Provost

Gary Lockwood, Chair
Richard Friske, Jr.
Ron Tschudy

Jim Gurr, Vice-Chair
Jason Helwig
vacancy

Minutes – September 6, 2022

Members Present: Gary Lockwood, Jim Gurr, Barb Bradford, Jason Helwig, Ron Tschudy, Dawn LaVanway

Members Absent: Richard Friske, Jr., Kenny Provost

Staff and Others: Stan Moore, Jeremy Scott

1. Meeting called to order at 6:02 by Mr. Lockwood

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Tschudy, seconded by Mr. Helwig, to approve the September 6 agenda as presented.

Motion Passes, 6 – Yes, 0 - No, 2 - Absent

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

5. Public Comment

None

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Jim Gurr, seconded by Ron Tschudy, to approve the minutes from August 2, 2022 as presented.

Motion Passes, 6 – Yes, 0 - No, 2 - Absent

7. Old Business

8. New Business

Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Antrim County Emergency Manager Leslie Meyers was on hand to present the draft of the 2023 Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan to the Planning Commission. Ms. Meyers gave an overview of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, including a brief description of some of the updates and the importance of consistency with the Master Plan. She indicated an updated draft is available and will be emailed to members the following morning.

A short discussion ensued.

Members invited Ms. Meyers to submit language for the master plan update that would keep it in line with the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Kearney Township – Proposed Amendment

It was brought up that **Note (5)** 600 square feet minimum did not line up with minimum floor area for multiple-family dwellings.

Motion by Jim Gurr, seconded by Ron Tschudy, that the Antrim County Planning Commission found no incompatibilities between the Antrim County Master Plan and the proposed zoning ordinance amendment to Appendix Table 1.

Motion Passes, 5 – Yes, 1 - No, 2 – Absent

Master Plan Chapter 9

Small corrections were pointed out and marked. A lengthier discussion ensued regarding updating the Community Opinion Survey and Visioning Sessions. The commissioners requested that they be provided a copy of the community opinion survey from 2001 and visioning session from 2003 for the next meeting.

Ron Tschudy presented a single page document as a possible addition as Chapter 9 Section 10 (see attached).

Motion by Gary Lockwood, seconded by Barb Bradford to provide the proposed Chapter 9 section 10 to the Emergency Manager for comment, to be reviewed by the Planning Commission at the next earliest opportunity.

Motion Passes, 6 – Yes, 0 - No, 2 – Absent

9. Various Matters

Training Updates

None

Communications

None

10. Public/Member Comment

Ron Tschudy and Stan Moore mentioned that the MSU meteorologist was working on providing area weather data for Bellaire over the past several years.

Gary Lockwood informed the commission of an upcoming Human Trafficking Awareness event and some of the issues in the area.

Motion by Jim Gurr, seconded by Gary Lockwood to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Passes, 6 – Yes, 0 - No, 2 – Absent

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm

10) Mitigate Natural Hazards and Meet the Challenges of Climate Change

Antrim County's "Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan" (NHMP-2023) specifies the collaborative efforts and actions to be taken to deal effectively with natural disasters and emergencies such as tornadoes, pandemics, extreme winter weather, flooding, etc. Along with preparedness, response and recovery, mitigation is an essential element of emergency management, the process of minimizing (or even eliminating) the destructive consequences of such low probability-high impact natural disasters.

The NHMP is available online, and several pages, it should be noted, regard the current global and local warming --climate change-- as an amplifying factor in some of these disasters, as well as eventually likely having a negative impact on tourism and agriculture. Climate change, unlike natural elements in the environment, is a dynamic factor caused by human activity, mainly the burning of fossil fuels. Thus, for both mitigation and climate change, the following policies are recommended:

Continue to strengthen collaboration with government and other entities involved
In mitigating natural hazards.

Encourage the production of residential, community, and utility grade solar and wind
energy.

Encourage the efforts of homeowners, businesses and units of government to plan and
set goals aimed at reducing their carbon footprints as much as feasible.

Expand existing tree-planting projects and develop new ones.

Support efforts to increase public transportation and car-pooling.

Advocate for cleaner (proportionately less coal- and gas-sourced) energy from power
companies and co-ops.

Help facilitate the installation of charging stations for electric vehicles.