

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 – November 1, 2022

Members Present: Dawn LaVanway, Gary Lockwood, Jim Gurr, Barbara Bradford, Richard Friske, Jason Helwig, Kenny Provost, Ron Tschudy
Members Absent: None
Staff and Others: Peter Garwood, Administrator

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Gary Lockwood

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

**Motion by LaVanway, seconded by Helwig, to approve the November 1 agenda as presented.
Motion - Carried**

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

5. Public Comment

None

6. Approval of Minutes

**Motion by LaVanway, seconded by Helwig, to approve the minutes from October 4, 2022 as presented.
Motion - Carried**

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

Banks Township – Proposed Zoning Amendment

Ron Tschudy shared, in the documents submitted by Banks Twp., he read that someone in the public hearing stated solar panels are not easy to recycle. He informed the Commission an Australian company is actively recycling them.

Mr. Tschudy also referred to the requirement for a large-scale solar energy system facility to be located within 2-mile of an electric substation. He calculated that only 1/3 of the land area in the Twp. would qualify for the location of a Solar Array. He thought that was an unfortunate restriction. It was thought it may be because the further the distance from the solar array to the substation the greater the loss of electricity along the way.

Peter Garwood indicated he thought the amendment was good, but unless the number of the Ordinance was in roman numerals (No. XX as in 20). He was surprised that it did not have a number.

Motion by Helwig, seconded by Gurr, that the Antrim County Planning Commission finds no incompatibilities between the Antrim County Master Plan and the proposed 2022 zoning ordinance amendments to the Banks Township Zoning Ordinance Articles III and IV pertaining to the installation of Utility-Scale Solar Energy Systems and recommends that Banks Township approves the changes.

Motion – Carried Unanimous

9. Master Plan – Chapter10: Implementation

Ms. Bradford noted there are quite a number of old/dead trees in the County. She asked if the County does tree planting. Mr. Helwig and Mr. Garwood answered yes, primarily through the Conservation District forester.

Motion by Lockwood, seconded by Friske to remove the bullet point in the Implementation Priorities regarding pursuing an environmental green business park.

Yes- LaVanway, Lockwood, Gurr, Friske, Helwig, Provost, Tschudy

No- Bradford

Motion Carries

Discussion about the bullet point developing a county-wide educational program that will emphasize the legal definitions and uses of wetlands. Questions about what the bullet point means.

Motion by Lockwood, seconded by Friske to remove the wetland education bullet.

Motion Carried unanimously

List the other plans, such as Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, Parks and Recreation Plan, Capital Improvements Plan somewhere in the plan as a part of the plan.

Motion by Helwig second by Gurr to approve Chapter 10 of the MP as modified.

Motion – Carries Unanimous

9. Various Matters

None

10. Public/Member Comment

No public comment.

Ms. Bradford gave a history of her community involvement and how the first Master Plan was a tool guidebook for Commissioners. She expressed concern about some of the changes made to the current master plan.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

DRAFT