

**Laketon Township Planning Commission
November 12, 2025 Regular Meeting-APPROVED**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Bob Marine called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Pledge was led by Chair Bob Marine.

ROLL CALL:

- Present: Eric Anderson, Chris Simpson, Paul Hoppa, Dave Mieras, Bob Marine and Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes.
- Absent: June Earhart
- Also present: Zoning Administrator Heidi Tice, Recording Secretary Melissa Coates and Township Supervisor Kim Arter.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Dave Mieras moved to approve the agenda as presented. Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes moved to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2025 meeting as presented. Chris Simpson supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

- **Monthly Permit Reporting:** Will have the report ready for next meeting and it will show October, November, and December.
- **Update on possible Rezoning of Boyd Homestead on Horton Rd:** ZA Tice has not received anything on the potential rezoning and therefore there will not be a hearing next month for that.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Request to look at dangerous tree ordinance:** Zoning Administrator Heidi Tice presented what other municipalities have for their ordinances. She stated larger municipalities have the staff to monitor and handle an ordinance, but Laketon Township does not. ZA Tice mentioned would we there be liability if something should happen. She mentioned that a public property tree ordinance might be helpful and it would cover the public property in the township such as the parks and cemetery as well as possibly making the township eligible for grants. ZA Tice explained what the county road commission is responsible for with the trees as well as what Consumer Energy's responsibilities are. ZA Tice recommended looking into a public tree ordinance, in case we need one to get certain grants down the road. Eric Anderson asked Township Supervisor Kim Arter if it was worth having a public land tree ordinance just for the grants. Arter answered saying that we already stay up on the trees, removing the diseased and dangerous ones from the parks, cemetery, and bike paths. But it wouldn't hurt being able to have possible access to grants. Eric Anderson stated no to a private property tree ordinance, but yes for a public property tree ordinance based on it being beneficial for a grant. Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes feels no because we are rural and compared to the cities that have them. Paul Hoppa feels they don't have enough information to move forward. Bob Marine said yes based on the need for the grant. Paul Hoppa made a

motion for ZA Tice to bring a simple ordinance for a public property tree ordinance. Eric Anderson supported the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

- **Shipping containers (Ocean/Train/Non-Wheeled):** ZA Tice presented the verbiage from Township Lawyer. Eric Anderson made a motion to set up a public hearing for storage containers/accessory building ordinance. Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes supported the motion. Motion carried by voice vote. ZA Tice asked when they would like the hearing to be? Eric Anderson made a motion to amend his previous motion to setup a public hearing for the storage containers/accessory building ordinance on January 15, 2026. Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes supported the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.
- **December Planning Commission Meeting:** After a short discussion with ZA Tice of what might be on the agenda, Chis Simpson made a motion to cancel the December PC Meeting. Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes supported that motion. Motion carried by voice vote.
- **2026 Planning Commission Meeting Dates:** ZA Tice presented the proposed 2026 meeting dates. Paul Hoppa made a motion to approve the 2026 PC Meeting dates. Dave Mieras supported the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **None**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Township Supervisor Arter updated on Scenic Drive Trail and that she is waiting to hear back from the federal government. The Horton Park project is underway currently working on the boat launch. The contractor has concerns the fiberoptic lines are in the way, working with the engineers from the fiberoptics company. Arter hasn't heard from the state about connecting to the Berry Junction Trail on Dykstra.

BOARD REPORTS:

- **Board of Trustees-Eric Anderson** – Trustee Eric Anderson stated that Township Supervisor Arter covered everything.
- **Zoning Board of Appeals** – Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes- None

Adjournment:

- Eric Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Simpson supported the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melissa Coates

Recording Secretary