

Laketon Township Planning Commission
January 14, 2026 Regular Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes-APPROVED

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Bob Marine called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL:

- Present: Eric Anderson, Chris Simpson, Paul Hoppa, Dave Mieras, Bob Marine, Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes, June Earhart
- Absent: None
- Also present: Zoning Administrator Heidi Tice, Township Supervisor Kim Arter, Recording Secretary Melissa Coates

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Paul Hoppa moved to approve the agenda as presented. June Earhart supported the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Suzanne Hayes moved to approve the minutes of November 12, 2025 meeting as presented. Chris Simpson supported the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

- **DALTON TOWNSHIP:** Sent out draft of the Lakewood Addition Sub-Area Plan. This correspondence is required to notify surrounding municipalities.
- **Monthly Permit Reporting:** ZA Tice discussed her permit report. She said there were 24 new homes last year and permits have slowed down due to winter.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Election of officers for 2026**
 - **Chairman**
 - Paul Hoppa made a motion to elect Bob Marine as Chairman. Bob Marine accepted the nomination. June Earhart seconded motion. Motion carried.
 - **Vice-Chairman**
 - Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes made a motion to elect June Earhart as Vice-Chairman. June Earhart accepted the nomination. Paul Hoppa seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - **Secretary**
 - Paul Hoppa made a motion to elect Dave Mieras as Secretary. Dave Mieras accepted the nomination. June Earhart seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - **ZBA liaison**
 - June Earhart made a motion to elect Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes as ZBA liaison. Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes accepted the nomination. Paul Hoppa seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Capital Improvement Plan Meeting**
 - ZA Tice asked to set up a date for the meeting. The PC agreed on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 4pm for the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Public hearing for new shipping containers (ocean/train/non-wheeled) ordinance

- June Earhart made a motion to open the public hearing. Paul Hoppa seconded motion. Motion carried.
- Dave Mieras read the newspaper publication
- PC looked over ZA Tice staff report
- No public comment support for the ordinance
- No public comment against the ordinance
- ZA Tice said there was no correspondence
- Eric Anderson made a motion to close the public hearing. Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Eric Anderson to recommend to the Board of Trustees to approve the ordinance. Second was made by Paul Hoppa.
- Roll Call Vote:
- Ayes-Eric Anderson, Chris Simpson, Paul Hoppa, Dave Mieras, Bob Marine, June Earhart, Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes
- Nays: None
- Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Kim Arter, Supervisor, said recommended yard sale ordinance is on the agenda for the Board of Trustee's meeting this month. Horton park update: They worked on the park for one month before the weather turned, they will be back to work most likely in the spring when the weather breaks. The township had a wonderful Christmas party and the Holiday Giving Project was able to serve 6 families this year. Paul Hoppa asked about the house on Dykstra and Witham. Kim Arter said it is in the legal system at this point. The attorney will be in next week. Dave Mieras asked about the bike path. Kim Arter said all proposals have been turned down. She has a meeting with the senator on 1/15/26 where she will discuss it more.

BOARD REPORTS:

- **Board of Trustees-Eric Anderson-** None as Kim Arter updated the board.
- **Zoning Board of Appeals – Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes** updated the PC on the ZBA Meeting held on January 12, 2026.

Adjournment:

- Eric Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Simpson supported the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melissa Coates
Recording Secretary