

**Laketon Township Planning Commission**  
**April 8, 2026 Regular Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes-APPROVED**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Bob Marine called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Township Treasurer Veronica West, Tim Arter, Aaron Bodbyl-Mast, Rob Taylor and 1 township resident

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Dave Mieras 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 February 11, 2026 meeting as presented. Paul Hoppa supported the motion. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:** NONE

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- **Monthly Permit Reporting:** ZA Tice discussed her permit report. She said it was for 2 months since there was no meeting in March. Seeing lots of new houses and accessory buildings.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Muskegon County Bicycling Coalition (STAG)/Muskegon Area Parks and Greenways Coalition – Presenters: Tim Arter, Aaron Bodbyl-Mast, Rob Taylor**

- Mr. Bodbyl-Mast gave a presentation on the plans for the Muskegon County trails and greenways
- Improved access, connecting communities and safety
- Want to put a millage on the November General Election ballot

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Proposed shipping container language from the Township Board**

- ZA Tice presented the language from the Township Board and went over the next steps that need to take place to move forward.
- Eric Anderson asked PC Chairman Bob Marine if Township Treasurer Veronica West could speak to answer questions from the Planning Commission.
- Chairman Bob Marine said yes
- Mrs. West explained that by having things in the proposed ordinance like the underground electrical, painting them a certain color and not have signs on them is odd because no other accessory building has that same rules.

Pairing PARING down the language makes it more universal across the entire township and more suitable for all residents.

- Eric Anderson said that PC wanted them to not be permanent structure and feel the Board's language is perfect.
- Bob Marine asked if there is code for pre manufactured building
- ZA Tice said There is nothing in the code for them.
- Bob Marine asked about setbacks
- ZA Tice said yes, they would have to meet setbacks like any other accessory building
- Eric Anderson asked if there needs to be language for construction, since it is not in the building code. Such as foundation requirement(s)
- ZA Tice said it is not a structure and does not need a foundation. The weight of it is enough of an anchor.
- Suzanne Hayes asked since they have a life span what will happen when they start to fall apart and look bad.
- ZA Tice said that would be covered under blight.
- Eric Anderson said they will be limited under the current accessory building ordinances based on parcel size and number of structures allowed.
- Paul Hoppa asked if this new language has been run by the lawyer.
- ZA Tice said it has not been run by the lawyer.
- ZA Tice will get a letter from Township Building Inspector, Chris Hall to present next meeting on whether storage containers fall under building or not.
- A Motion was made by Eric Anderson to table the discussion until next month so the PC can have the feedback from the building inspector. Second was made by Chris Simpson. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Paul Hoppa to amend the previous motion to take the letter from the building inspector and the Board's language to the lawyer at the same time to save time with back and forth. Second was made by Eric Anderson. Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Kim Arter, Supervisor, updated on parks and rec.
- Horton Park work has resumed
- Frontier/Verizon is going to cut the line that is in the water and it can be removed
- Drawing up legal document to ban the easement
- Federal Government appropriation for the Scenic Drive Trail has been approved
- The trail will go from Fenner Rd to Duck Lake Rd
- Have no heard back about any funding for the trail on Dykstra
- All budgets amended and passed last month
- Veronic West about containers. If requiring a foundation, they might become a more permanent solution for storage, where as if no foundation is required, residents will view them as more temporary.

#### **BOARD REPORTS:**

- **Board of Trustees-Eric Anderson-** None as Kim Arter updated the board. Mentioned about volunteering for the Laketon Township Clean up day on Saturday, May 9, 2026.
- **Zoning Board of Appeals – Suzanne Lockwood-Hayes** updated the PC there will be a ZBA Hearing on April 23, 2026 and she will update the PC at the May meeting.

**Adjournment:**

- Suzanne Hayes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Mieras supported the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melissa Coates  
Recording Secretary