

Corwith Township Planning Commission Minutes

April 29, 2024 Meeting, Township Hall 6:00 PM

Meeting Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: Chair Judi Jarecki called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Roll Call: Jim Neeley ✓ Maureen Charbonneau ✓ Others present:
 Judi Jarecki ✓ Richard Millington ✓ None
 Tom Kellogg ✓

Approval of March 25, 2024 Minutes: Charbonneau motioned to approve the Minutes. Millington seconded, and the motion carried by those present.

Correspondence: Michigan Township Association brochures highlighting training opportunities

Public Comment: None

Planning Commission Items:

1. Township Planning Commission (TPC):

a) Coordination with Village: Participants from Vanderbilt and Corwith Township attended an April 17th businesses event at 9:00 AM at the Township Hall. There was a positive discussion of the event which was considered a successful attempt to gather local business leaders and solicit their thoughts and ideas about a direction for the community. There was some interest in having an informal association of the local businesses. The next gathering on May 22nd at 5:30 pm can begin by highlighting the ideas jotted down on April 17th.

Further discussions centered on speculation about the Bay Mills Tribe's plans for its property, rental units and Airbnb businesses, platted alleyways and the process of vacating them, and place-making for Corwith Township and the Village of Vanderbilt. One suggestion was a smoked or BB-Q Rib Festival as a way to draw visitors.

At the April 17th gathering, Samantha Jones suggested the idea of a community garden where area residents would have a designated space in which to grow their own vegetables. One such place to have this would be on DNR land currently leased by the Township, north of the Trailhead Park and exercise area. Lisa McComb contacted Greg Kinser of the DNR to see what that would entail. Among a list of normally prohibited activities, an approved fence would need to enclose the proposed area, such area to be determined by the number of participants and the area required for each participant. A water source would need to be made available. Prior to any tilling, a Garden Plan with the number and size of garden spaces would have to be submitted to the PRD Stewardship unit of the MDNR for approval. A Township policy would have to be created for the process of assigning garden parcels and rules of maintaining the spaces.

b) Master Plan: In addition to discussing the business initiative above, there is an on-going effort to locate an Otsego CRC asset management plan.

2. Review Otsego County Land Use Services (OCLUS) documents as necessary; make a recommendation

There are no documents for review at this time.

3. **Other community issues/activities:** the Township Community music events resume on the third Thursday of the month May 16th at 6:00 PM.

4. Update on Otsego County Planning Commission (OCPC) and Parks and Recreation:

The OCPC had no meeting in April. It will likely review Article 8 at its May meeting.

Parks and Recreation: There is an effort to find a new tractor for projects. At the Community Center, any students using the facility must now have signed paperwork from the parents. There are now far fewer disciplinary problems than there were before this new policy.

Comment: None

Adjourn: 7:19 pm. The next scheduled meeting is 6 pm on 06/24/2024