

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
PLANNING COMMISSION
APRIL 13, 2009**

The Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson Tim Brown at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairperson Tim Brown, Commissioners Gunnett, DeVries, Rozeboom and Pfost.
Absent: Harden, Vestal.
Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Pfost, seconded by Rozeboom, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2009, as presented. All aye.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

UPDATE ON VILLAGE ACTIVITIES:

Minutes of the Regular Meetings of February 2, 16, March 2, 16, 2009. Were reviewed for file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) The memorandum from Greg Milliken regarding expiration dates for site plan reviews was discussed.

Commissioner Comments as follows:

- Commissioner Brown stated that he was concerned about additional costs associated with site plan review.
- Commissioner DeVries had the following comments:
He stated that zoning ordinances could change that could have an impact on the proposed site.
He stated that if construction has not started within one year of site plan approval, that plans should be reviewed for zoning compliance.
- Commissioner Gunnett stated that the cost renewal of a site plan would be minimal to the applicant.
- Commissioner Rozeboom stated that the majority of site plans were relatively minor and the cost would be minimal.

The Planning Commission decided to submit the zoning ordinance amendment in conjunction with future amendments likely in fall 2009.

- b) Discussion took place regarding the Training Session held in the Village of Mattawan on March 9, 2009 as follows:

Commissioner DeVries had the following comments:

- He stated that he was pleased with the training session, and felt it was beneficial for new Planning Commissioners.
 - He stated that he likes the concept of Conditional Zoning because it would allow other opportunities for uses that would otherwise not be allowed in a particular zoning district.
 - Commissioner Pfost stated that she enjoyed the training session, and recognizes that the Planning Commission makes decisions based on Village Zoning Ordinances.
 - Commissioner Gunnett stated that he would like to allow other uses particularly in these difficult economic times.
- c) Commissioner Brown stated that there are several seats on the Village Council that will be available in September. He asked Planning Commissioners to recognize the importance of these positions, and seek to recruit individuals who are capable of providing proper leadership to the Village.
- d) The Planning Commission expressed concern over vacant businesses, and questioned how other communities attract new businesses to their respective communities.

It was suggested that the Planning Commission, DDA, and Council meet to discuss the issue.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Cheri M. Lutz, Recording Secretary

Tim Brown, Chairperson