

**CATO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 14, 2021**

The Cato Township Planning Commission met for their regular meeting on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at the Lakeside Park. Members present included:

David Behrenwald                      Kim Carr                      Phil Morrow  
Dave Kelsey, Zoning Administrator

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by chairperson, Phil Morrow.

**Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the February 17, 2021, were presented. Motion was made by David Behrenwald and supported by Kim Carr to approve the minutes as reported. Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

Phil Morrow reviewed the guidelines for public comments asking participants to be respectful, limit comments to 3 minutes per person, new information or comments are welcomed and individuals are expected to state their full name and the township they reside in.

Approximately 20 community members from Cato, Belvidere, Montcalm and Pine townships attended the meeting, many of them unsupportive of the Wind Energy subject. Sixteen individuals shared commentary. Attendance roster attached.

Written correspondence was provided in hard-copy to members of the commission from 2 community members as well as a professional response to the false insurance cancellation claims related to implementation of turbines.

**Wind Ordinance**

Phil announced that Wind Ordinance review will be slightly delayed due to recent vacancies on the Commission. The Commission will restructure with new members as its first priority. In order to assess and amend the existing Wind Ordinance, extra time will be needed.

Motion was made by Kim Carr and supported by David Behrenwald to request to the Cato Township Board that the Planning Commission be authorized to add three additional meetings to begin assessment and research of the Wind Ordinance. Motion carried.

Motion was made by David Behrenwald and supported by Kim Carr to propose to the Cato Township Board, implementation of a six-month moratorium on distribution of wind building permits in order to allow time to work on the evaluation and assessment of the current Wind Ordinance. The timeframe of the moratorium will be April 14, 2021 through October 13, 2021. Motion carried.

**Restructuring of Cato Township Planning Commission**

Phil communicated that two recent resignations from the Cato Township Planning Commission have been received due to restructuring of the Cato Township Board and due to serious illness.

Replacements for the seats of Jourdan Lindsey and Carol Kelsey will be voted on this evening. Those expressing interest to fill these seats are: Brandi Clark-Hubbard, Brad Delamater, Quanah Striker, Pat Clark and Brandy Dood. Each candidate was given an opportunity to share their background information, their purpose of interest and what qualifications they might bring to the Commission. Brandy Dood was not present and Brad Delamater withdrew his interest. Following presentations, Pat Clark withdrew from consideration.

A motion was made by Kim Carr and supported by David Behrenwald to nominate Brandi Hubbard-Clark for the vacant seat created by Jourdan Lindsey. Motion carried. David will present to the Township Board in May.

A motion was made by David Behrenwald and supported by Kim Carr to nominate Quanah Striker for the vacant seat created by Carol Kelsey. Motion carried. David will present to the Township Board in May.

**Special Meetings Request**

In light of the additional work of the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Kim Carr and supported by David Behrenwald to request three additional meetings to the Township Board. Those meetings would be scheduled the second Wednesday of the month, during the off-schedule months (May, July and September). David Behrenwald will address to the Township Board in May. Motion carried.

**Zoning Report**

Dave Kelsey, Cato Township Zoning Administrator, presented his report noting three permits were granted:

Andrew Padden	9676 Paden Road	54x24 pole barn
Montcalm County	6507 Schmeid Road	2 rental cabins
Peggy Smith	Lot 21, Channel Road	pole barn

One blight complaint is being reviewed.

**Noise Ordinance**

Due to lack of research, a motion was made by Kim Carr and supported by David Behrenwald to table the Noise Ordinance discussion until the June meeting. Motion carried.

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**Cato Township Board Report**

Jourdan Lindsey has assumed the Cato Township Board responsibilities previously performed by the late Henry Behrenwald. David Behrenwald has been appointed as the liaison between the Township Board and the Planning Commission, previously performed by Jourdan Lindsey.

David Behrenwald thanked Jourdan Lindsey for his years of service, time, knowledge and expertise that he has shared with the Cato Township Planning Commission.

**Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cato Township Planning Commission is Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Kim Carr and supported by David Behrenwald to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Recorded by,

Kimberlee J. Carr

Secretary

Cato Township Planning Commission