

MINUTES BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 --- 7:00 p.m.

Big Rapids Township Hall, 14212 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Amanda Wethington called the regular meeting of the Big Rapids Charter Township Planning Commission to order at the township hall on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

Present: Mike Bigford, Zach Cook, Mary Davis, Gordon Oliver, and Amanda Wethington. Carman Bean and Mark Sweppenheiser are absent. The record shows there is a quorum. Also present: Zoning Administrator and Recording Secretary, Timothy Kleinheksel and Township Supervisor, Bill Stanek.

III. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Mrs. Wethington asked if any of the Commission members had known conflicts of interest with any of the items on the agenda for this meeting. No one indicated that a conflict of interest existed.

IV. MINUTES:

Mrs. Wethington asked the Commission members to review the minutes of the October 13, 2020 meeting. Mr. Cook made a motion to approve the October 13, 2020 minutes as submitted. Mr. Oliver supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with five ayes.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Stanek stated that with Veterans Day being tomorrow, he wanted to thank all Veterans of the armed forces for their service and made a special thank-you to Mr. Oliver who served in the Navy.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

SUP20-004 Buschmann

Chairperson Wethington recognized Mr. Aaron Buschmann of 22671 14 Mile Road. Mr. Buschmann is requesting to utilize the detached guest house as additional storage for his previously approved internet business, RootNaturally.com. (SUP20-001 approved by the Planning Commission on June 9, 2020) Mr. Buschmann stated that he wants to utilize the garage and walk-out basement of the guest house on his property so that they can park vehicles in the garage attached to the main house especially during the winter months. Mr. Bigford inquired about the prognosis for the future of the business. Mr. Buschmann stated that things are going as well as expected and that they do not have need for further expansion. Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve SUP20-004 as submitted. Mrs. Davis supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote with five ayes.

Site Plan Review – ALDI Inc.

Mr. Chris Grzenkowicz of Desine, Inc. presented the commercial site plan for the proposed remodel of ALDI Inc. at 21481 Perry Avenue. ALDI Inc. has decided to postpone the previously approved expansion of the store and instead is remodeling the interior of the existing store. Mr. Grzenkowicz also said they are also updating exterior lighting and signage in addition to adding dedicated customer pick-up parking spaces and replacing some dead trees from the original construction. Mr. Bigford made a motion to approve the site plan as submitted. Mr. Oliver supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with five ayes via roll call vote.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Stanek stated that American Tower has submitted a 50-year contract for a cell tower to be erected on Township property at 14212 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI. This project will be reviewed by the Big Rapids Township Zoning Board of Approval.

Mr. Stanek suggested that because of the increase in popularity of solar panels, the Planning Commission look into adding an ordinance regulating solar installations. Mr. Kleinheksel will research what other Townships are doing and submit a draft to the Commission.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business for the Planning Commission, Mrs. Wethington adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the Planning Commission minutes of November 10, 2020 by: Mr. ____.
Supported by: Mr. ____ . Roll call vote carried with ____ ayes.

Timothy Kleinheksel,
Timothy Kleinheksel, Recording Secretary
BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION

____, 2020
Date Approved