

MILAN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

2020 YEAR END SUMMARY

January 13, 2022

The Milan Township Planning Commission held 5 regular meetings and 1 public hearing meetings during 2020. There was 6 months in which there was no Planning Commission meeting. Below is a summary of significant events covered during 2020.

The meetings for January, February, April, May, October and December were canceled due to lack of a quorum or due to COVID restrictions.

The March, in-person, meeting had a representative for APEX Clean Energy who informed us that they are exploring the possibilities of placing a large solar facility in Milan Township. They are looking at approximately 1500 acres to lease. After a general discussion of the project, the Planning commission decided to invited Sarah Mills, an expert in clean energy from the University of Michigan to review renewable energy planning and zoning issues. She will speak at workshop meeting to be held at 7:00pm. March 23rd. in the Milan Township hall. Due to covid restrictions, the March 23rd meeting was rescheduled to June.

The June meeting included a presentation from Sarah Mills of U of M regarding Planning for Solar Energy. The PC agreed that a Solar Farm Ordinance was needed as soon as possible. There was also a discussion regarding modifying the size restrictions for Accessory Buildings was suggested.

A Public Hearing was held in July to review the proposed Solar Farm ordinance. Also discussed was the Accessory Building size restrictions.

The August meeting was a continuation of the July public hearing. The Large Solar Energy Systems ordinance, 13.27, was discussed and approved, 4/0. Also discussed and approved, 4/0, was the modification of the size restrictions on Accessory buildings. In general, size restrictions were eliminated because there was general agreement that the maximum lot coverage restriction of 35% was sufficient to insure that properties would not be excessively built upon.

The September meeting was a general discussions. No assignments or motions were made.

The November meeting was a town hall meeting in order to enlighten the public as to the nature and scope of the Solar Farm project. A lengthy question and answer period was held. The developer was present and answered questions.

The December meeting was canceled.

Expectations for 2021 include working to insure that the solar farm project is transparent.

Submitted by: *John F. Schauer*
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Planning Commission, Chairman