

Van Buren County Land Preservation Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hickmott called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Van Buren County Administration Building in Paw Paw, Michigan.

Land Preservation Board members present: Emilly Hickmott, Julie Pioch, Richard Godfrey, Carl Druskovich, Scott Cedarquist and Chris Rickli. Members Absent: Dave Foerster, William VanTassel, and Michael Matheny

Public in attendance: Lisa Ransler, Van Buren County.

MINUTES

Pioch, supported by Cedarquist made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 8, 2023. Minutes were approved as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Land Preservation Board By-Laws: Pioch explained the proposed changes to the By-Laws. Druskovich, supported by Rickli, made a motion to adopt the By-Laws with the discussed changes. Motion approved by acclamation.

Land Preservation Board Scoring System: Pioch reviewed the scoring system requirements that need to be updated and approved before July 2024. The largest concern is to ensure that the most at-risk properties are preserved, with the scoring system supporting LPB's purchase of those properties.

After review and discussion of the document, Items to confirm include what is being done regarding certified endangered species and any other development points that should be included. The group felt the discretionary points were a good addition. Pioch will update the Scoring System and it will be reviewed at the May meeting.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Cedarquist reported that the Planning Commission had been receiving a large number of cell tower installation requests with no opposition. Additionally, he reported that 10 million acres in solar power are expected nationally, with concern over recycling after use.

Druskovich commented that Hartford and Decatur Townships were also seeing an increase in requests for solar developments due to uncertainty about the State's solar restrictions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting date and location: May 8, 2024 at the Human Services West Building at 57418 CR 681, Hartford MI 49057.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.