

**Keene Township Planning Commission  
Special Meeting**

Minutes from meeting dated 1-22-2025

Denny Briggs called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll call:**

Present: Denny Briggs, Ray Krieger, Cori Wilber, Nate Wolff

Absent: Nancy Solomon, Matt Stahlin

*Note: 1 current vacancy*

There were approximately 10 members of the community present along with Zoning Administrator Jeanne Vandersloot.

**Changes to the agenda:**

Wilber noted that the date at the top of the agenda should read “Wednesday” instead of Monday. Wolff made a motion to approve as amended. Wilber seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

**Approval of last meeting minutes:**

Wilber motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting. Wolff seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

**Report from Township Board Rep:**

At their next meeting, the Board plans to discuss an increase in per-meeting pay for the Planning Commission Secretary (Solomon), to compensate her for compiling meeting minutes. Amount to be determined.

**Report from Zoning Administrator:**

Report was given at another PC meeting earlier this month.

**Public Comment – Topics not on the agenda:**

None.

**New Business:**

- Began working on the wind energy ordinance. Between the current ordinance and the draft of the CREO from the township attorneys, there were a handful of items identified that are the “focal points”, such as setbacks, sound level (including a “thud” noise when the blades pass the base), shadow flicker, height, etc.
- Wilber asked about flight paths and what is allowed in them, whether wind turbines would affect agricultural aerial applications (aka: crop dusting), and if turbines would create any issues for orchard fans. Kim Newell from the audience pointed out that West Michigan Aviation Academy uses this area for training.
- Briggs pointed out that the CREO doesn’t address decommissioning and maintenance. These sections will be added.
- Various other topics were discussed briefly, including flashing red lights on top of the turbines, site lighting, fencing, fire department response, tailwinds, ice build up on the blades, blade speed, wind pressure and potential health issues for humans and animals, wildlife preservation, Safety Data Sheets and safety procedures for surrounding residences when lightning is present.
- Due to only having four members present and research being required, it was decided to split up the topics needing to be investigated and report findings at the next meeting. *Assignments:*
  - Briggs researching any potential issues with agriculture: orchard fans, aerial application, effects on livestock.
  - Wolff researching flight paths.
  - Wilber researching sound levels.
- Wolff made a motion to table working on the wind ordinance until the next meeting. Wilber seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

#### **Old Business:**

- None

#### **Public Comment – Any Topic:**

- Kim Newell asked if there needs to be a separate ordinance that defines the overlay district, or if each renewable energy ordinance will reference and define the overlay district. Briggs explained that the current plan is to finish the wind ordinance, work on a commercial battery storage facility ordinance, then create an ordinance to define the overlay district. Once those items are complete, the solar energy, wind energy, and battery storage ordinances will be updated to refer to the correct document.

#### **Adjournment:**

- Wolff made a motion to adjourn. Wilber seconded. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Minutes recorded by Cori Wilber.