

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
PLANNING COMMISSION
Special Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2014, 7:00 PM
32325 Franklin Road – Village Hall
Franklin, Michigan**

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Village of Franklin Planning Commission was called to order by Chairman, Connie Ettinger at the Franklin Village Hall, 32325 Franklin Road, Franklin, MI at 7:02 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Rajaei Abbass, Connie Ettinger, Peter Halick, Mike Heisel, Dean Moenck, Bill Sheppard, Bob Wilke

Absent: Karen Couf-Cohen (excused), Calvin Cupidore (excused)

Also Present: Planning Consultant, Sarah Traxler, McKenna & Associates; Village Clerk, Eileen Pulker

III. MAIN STREET FRANKLIN PRESENTATION ON THE MSU SMALL TOWN INITIATIVE SUSTAINABILITY AND DESIGN GUIDELINES.

Pat Burke, Main Street Franklin Design Committee member, presented the written report on the MSU Small Town Initiative Sustainability and Design Guidelines. She provided a brief history of events of the last 45 years, starting with the 1969 Master Plan, highlighting re-occurring themes, and leading up to this final report. Included were the MSU findings, Benefits to the Village, Examples of Change (good and bad), What if...?, Examples, Franklin's Next Steps, and the resulting project entitled, "Franklin 2020", which is "A Vision For The Future of Franklin Village". This final product would become a tool for the Planning Commission, the Village Council, the Historic District Commission, and Main Street Franklin. Funding and timeline for "Franklin 2020", as well as, the selection of a consultant who will expand upon the Design Guidelines were discussed.

The "Franklin 2020" committee which will revise the 2011 RFP and select the consultant consists of Jim Creech, Village Administrator; Bill Finnicum, Historic District resident and architect; Gayle Timmis, Historic District Commission member; Pat Burke, MSF Representative.; Connie Ettinger, Planning Commission representative Frank Yanke, Business owner; Cathy Watkins, MSF's Design Committee Chair; Ed Saenz, Council member, and Katherine White, MSF Executive Director.

Burke expounded on how the Planning Commission can help in the project's implementation. Ettinger remarked that Creech, the Village Administrator, suggested that even though the PC has finished revising the 2015 Master Plan, once the guidelines are in place, it can be re-opened and revised to include the design guidelines. Then Ordinances can be tailored to accommodate them. The report will be put on the Village website and the Main Street Franklin website. Ettinger reported that she had presented a draft of Chapter 10 of the Master Plan to the Council the previous night at its regular meeting and opined that it was well received. She brought to the Council's attention that no implementation dates had been included due to the uncertainty of funding.

General discussion ensued comparing Franklin to other communities and the importance of hiring the appropriate consultant for the Village who would protect its characteristics and uniqueness. Sheppard commented that the RFP needs to be very “tight” in order to attract such candidates. White stated that Main Street Oakland County could help guide Franklin and help in the hiring of the right consultant.

Ettinger reiterated that there are grant funds available but a plan and the Sustainability and Design Guidelines need to be in place before the Village can apply. She also mentioned that during the council meeting, Bill Dwyer, Oakland County Commissioner, offered his services.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

Ettinger passed out brochures from MSU’s Forestry Dept. titled, “Native Plants and Ecosystems Services” to all the Commissioners noting that she had received them from Kevin Sayres, and hopes that he will be able to assist the Commission in obtaining some grant money for the Village’s tree canopy. She also mentioned that the Arbor Day celebration had been overlooked and that the Village will celebrate it on or near Labor Day, thus enabling the retention of its designation as a “Tree City”.

Ettinger reminded the Commission about tomorrow’s Regular Planning Commission meeting at which there will be a Public Hearing on the proposed zoning issue and election of Officers. She reminded them that she would be absent and noted her interest in continuing to serve as Chairman. She also stated her support of Heisel as Vice Chair and Cupidore as Secretary.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Heisel supported by Sheppard to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Beke, Recording Secretary

Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk