

Adams Township Planning Commission

Sept 21, 2023 ATPC meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

Pledge of Allegiance done:

Roll Call:

Chairperson: Martha Dugdale Present

Secretary: Terry Parolini Present

Member: Dan Coponen Present

Member: Paul Eister Absent

Member: Sherri Kinnunen Present

A motion was made by Terry to accept last meeting minutes, seconded by Martha, all ayes, Sherri abstained.

Martha brought up plans by the State to remove local government control and give it to the State level. Sheri asked how we go about vetoing this idea. Martha stated she has a Resolution to send to the State, which she presented to the Adams Township Board and to the Houghton County Commissioners. Sheri made a motion to send on behalf of the ATPC, Seconded by Dan. All Ayes 0 Nays.

Sheri suggested that we all call our Legislators letting them know it is unacceptable to allow the State to take the power away from Local Control.

Adams Township Supervisor Gerald Heikkinen asked Martha where we are with the 5 year plan. Martha said it has to be submitted twice and that Heather, Adams Township Office Secretary was having difficulties sending. Heather did tell Martha she is hoping to get it submitted by the end of the week.

Martha said we should be able to apply for DNR grants by Feb/March of 2024. Martha stated she had located at least 134 different grant sources, some matching grants along Donors depending on the project.

Martha said she would come in with Paul to look at what needs to be done to the Ice Rink (part of the Sports Complex). Martha said she came to the Rink when AT Supervisor Gerald Heikkinen went up the roof to assess the damages. Martha said

she cleaned out the concession stand and emptied trash that had been left behind from this past skating season.

Martha said we have 5 years to work on the Baltic Playground Project based on an agreement made with property donors Joe and Chris DeForge. Martha said a priority is the Atlantic Mine playground equipment along with the ground cover and would like to see a shelter installed at the Atlantic Mine Playground, such as a Gazebo.

Martha said she talked to Jay Ruohonen about the 12-13 acres he donated with the intent of the Adams Township Schools getting involved with developing it as a nature site to include walking trails, benches. Jay said he had not heard anything from the schools Superintendent, Tim Keteri.

Martha said her neighbor who has been involved in Disc Golf is willing to help with the somewhat existing Disc Golf behind the Jeffers High School and any other plans for Disc Golf in the community.

Martha said ATPC may get money from Portage Health for the playground. Also USDA Forestry for trails and other nature setups.

Terry made a motion at 6:50 PM to adjourn, seconded by Martha, all Ayes, 0 Nays
No future meeting date set at this time.

October 2,2023

Governor Gretchen Whitmer

<https://www.Michigan.gov/whitmer/contact>

Governor Whitmer,

We understand that in the near future you will be asked to vote on several bills. If passed, these bills will override local control of the following: a) short-term rentals b) sand and gravel mining, and c) the approval process for siting industrial wind and large scale solar projects. We urge you to **oppose** the passage of these bills.

Our way of governing cannot be sacrificed by any person or group in their attempt to attain a political goal. Local governments are in the best position to determine what is right for their individual, unique communities. Changing the rules in such a way that it nullifies the authority of township boards and planning commissions is unacceptable in a representative government.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Adams Township Planning Commission
Houghton County, Michigan
Martha Dugdale, Chairperson

Resolution 2023-01

September 21, 2023

Resolution in Favor of Maintaining Local Control

Adams Township Planning Commission
Adams Township, Houghton County, Michigan

At a regular meeting of the Adams Township Planning Commission, held in the Adams Township Hall, on the 21st day of September 2023, at 6:00 p.m. local time, at which a quorum of members was present, the following resolution was offered by Member Sherri Kinnunen and seconded by member Dan Coponen .

RESOLUTION NO.2023-01

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN LOCAL CONTROL OVER LOCAL LAND USES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: SHORT-TERM RENTALS, INDUSTRIAL SOLAR INSTALLATIONS, INDUSTRIAL WIND TURBINE INSTALLATIONS AND SAND AND GRAVEL MINING

WHEREAS, local townships are best able to determine which uses should and should not be in their local

communities and what plans are best and reasonable for each neighborhood rather than having these decisions forced onto townships by the state government; and

WHEREAS, the legislature of the State of Michigan may propose and attempt to pass into law bills that strip away local community control over local land uses including, but not limited to: short-term rentals, industrial solar installations, industrial wind turbine installations and sand and gravel mining; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of Adams Township is committed to protecting our community's land from special interests trying to strip away local control;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Adams Township Planning Commission resolves as follows:

Section 1. Adams Township Planning Commission is opposed to the State of Michigan proposing and passing bills that take away or otherwise limit local control over local land uses, including, but not limited to: short-term rentals, industrial solar installations, industrial wind turbine installations and sand and gravel mining.

Section 2. Adams Township Planning Commission is opposed to the construction, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and decommissioning of industrial solar installations, industrial wind turbine installations and

sand and gravel mining and similar uses in our community unless these projects comply with township ordinances and regulations.

Section 3. Adams Township Planning Commission supports the longstanding right of local community self-determination as provided by the laws and constitution of the State of Michigan.

Section 4. As members of the Adams Township Planning Commission, we resolve to maintain the duties and responsibilities bestowed upon us as appointed representatives by our constituents to execute their will to the best of our abilities in these matters.

AYES Dugdale, Parolini, Kinnunen, Coponen

NAYS none

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

September 21, 2023

Therese Parolini, Secretary

Adams Township Planning Commission,
Adams Township,
Houghton County, Michigan