

**MARION TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2026 / 7:30PM**

PC MEMBERS PRESENT: JIM ANDERSON – *CHAIRPERSON*
LARRY FILLINGER – *VICE CHAIRPERSON*
CHERYL RANGE – *SECRETARY*
BRUCE POWELSON
SCOTT LLOYD

PC MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

OTHERS PRESENT: SCOTT RICHARDSON – *MARION TWP. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR*
ZACH MICHELS – *TOWNSHIP PLANNER*



CALL TO ORDER:
Jim Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

CALL TO PUBLIC:
See page 2.



MEMBERS' PRESENT:
All Planning Commissioners are present. Jim Anderson stated that Board of Trustees did not re-appoint Larry Grunn to be on the Planning Commission.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 24, 2026 AGENDA:
Bruce Powelson made a motion to approve the February 24, 2026 agenda as amended. Larry Fillinger seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2026 MINUTES:
Underneath "CALL TO ORDER", Larry Grunn's name needs to be replaced with Jim Anderson.
Cheryl Range made a motion to approve the January 27, 2026 Planning Commission minutes as amended. Jim Anderson seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

ELECTION OF OFFICER FOR 2026 PLANNING COMMISSION:
Jim Anderson made a motion to nominate Cheryl Range as Secretary for the Marion Township Planning Commission. Scott Lloyd seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

Larry Fillinger made a motion to nominate Jim Anderson as Chairperson for the Marion Township Planning Commission. Cheryl Range seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

Bruce Powelson made a motion to nominate Larry Fillinger as Vice-Chairperson for the Marion Township Planning Commission. Jim Anderson seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

OLD BUSINESS:

1) UPDATE ON TXT# 01-25

Scott Richardson stated that the Board of Trustees approved of this TXT# 01-25 with some additional changes at the last Board meeting. Scott Richardson will make these final changes, and the language will take effect in 30 days.

2) DISCUSSION OF HYPER SCALE DATA CENTER ORDINANCE UPDATES

Scott Richardson stated that the Livingston County Planning Department provided the Commissioners with two samples of language to review. The Commissioners discussed the differences between Conventional Zoning and DPUD. The Commissioners also talked about doing land use permits for data centers, which would allow the Township to have more control and enforce stricter regulations.

Commissioners decided to have Zach Michels put together some language using the samples provided by the Livingston County Planning Department to create an ordinance. Commissioners discussed the districts in Marion Township that would allow data centers. Scott Lloyd said to make sure we exclude our well-head-protected areas, in the ordinance.

Larry Fillinger made a motion to have Zach Michels put together language for a *hyper scale data center* ordinance. Jim Anderson seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

Jim Anderson shared that the Board of Trustees is currently working on a Moratorium for data centers.

Scott Richardson said there is an MTA Livingston meeting being held at the Township on March 30th at 4pm. Bruce Powelson, Cheryl Range and Jim Anderson plan to attend.

CALL TO PUBLIC:

Les Andersen is a Marion Township resident and addressed the Commissioners about regulating data centers.

3) REVIEW OF DRAFT ORDINANCE ON STORAGE CONTAINERS FROM ZACH MICHELS

Zach Michels reviewed the new language he created for storage containers. The Commissioners discussed different potential regulations, such as not allowing any electricity options. Scott Lloyd said the allowable square footage of the structure should be based on the size of the lot.

Zach Michels will make these revisions and have a draft ready for the next Planning Commission meeting on March 24, 2026.

4) DISCUSSION ON CHICKEN ORDINANCE

A. DEFINITION LANGUAGE ON LIVESTOCK

Scott Richardson discussed the Township's current definition of *wild animals*. Richardson will bring back the actual language to the next Planning Commission meeting.

Jim Anderson made a motion to postpone discussion on this agenda item until the next Planning Commission meeting on March 24, 2026. Bruce Powelson seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS:

1) REVIEW OF BYLAWS

Larry Fillinger suggested changing the term "Call to Public" to "Public Comment" on the Public Comment policy and PC bylaws.

Scott Richardson said that he would get the Grand Ledge Public Comment policy from Gregory Newman, the presenter from the Parliamentary Procedure training we had on January 15th.

Cheryl Range made a motion to extend the Planning Commission meeting past 9:30pm. Jim Anderson seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

(NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED)

2) DISCUSSION OF DEFINITION OF FENCE AS AN ACCESSORY STRUCTURE

Jim Anderson made a motion to postpone discussion on this agenda item until the next Planning Commission meeting on March 24, 2026. Cheryl Range seconded. **5-0 MOTION CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE AND UPDATES:

Scott Richardson discussed some of the proposed bills that will have an impact on the Land Division Act, the Zoning Enabling Act, Site Plans and Lot Areas. Scott Richardson will email these bills to the Commissioners.

Jessica told the Commissioners that the Livingston County Citizen Planner program classes will take place on 04/23/2026, 04/28/2026, 05/07/2026, 05/14/2026 and 05/28/2026. Please let Jessica or Tammy know if you are interested in taking this class.

CALL TO PUBLIC:

No comment was made.

ADJOURNMENT:

Bruce Powelson made a motion to adjourn the Planning Commission meeting at 9:57pm. Jim Anderson seconded.

5-0 MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES TAKEN BY: Jessica S. Timberlake

ORIGINAL