

Chairperson

Margaret Sayles, PC Rep.

Members

Jan Motz, PC Rep.
Eric Silm, Bingham Twp. Rep.
Dawn Levey, Duplain Twp. Rep.
Dennis Strahle, Eagle Twp. Rep.
Kathleen George, Essex Twp. Rep.
Lee Thelen, Greenbush Twp. Rep.
Ken Wieber, Lebanon Twp. Rep.
Eric Voisinet, Olive Twp. Rep.
Jennings West, Ovid Twp. Rep.
Kevin Garvey, Riley Twp. Rep.
Jim Conklin, Victor Twp. Rep.
Troy Thelen, Westphalia Twp. Rep.
Donald Lowell, General Rep.
David Smith, General Rep.
Mike Halfman, General Rep.
Melany Mack, General Rep.
Rene Rosenbaum, General Rep.
Russell Braun, General Rep.



Clinton County

Planning Commission

Advisory Committee

Utility Scale Solar and Wind Zoning Regulations

MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 29, 2023

Facilitator

Val Vail-Shirey, PC / BOC Rep.

Community Development Staff

Jessica Bolt, Planning/Permit Tech.
Joel Haviland, Building Official/
Zoning/SESC Admin.

County Administrators

John Fuentes, Admin.
Todd Campbell, Dep. Admin.

County Legal Counsel

Foster Swift Collins & Smith
Michael Homier
Leslie Abdo

Clinton County Courthouse
100 East State Street, Suite 1300
St. Johns, Michigan 48879-1571
(989) 224-5180

CALL TO ORDER

The Clinton County Utility Scale Solar and Wind Zoning Regulations Advisory Committee (Committee) met on Thursday, June 29, 2023 at 6:01 p.m. with Chairperson Sayles calling the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Margaret Sayles
Jan Motz
Eric Harger, Bingham Township Alternate
Dawn Levey
Dennis Strahle
Kathleen George
Lee Thelen
Ken Wieber
Eric Voisinet
Jennings West
Jim Conklin
Donald Lowell
David Smith
Melany Mack
Rene Rosenbaum
Russell Braun

Members Absent:

Kevin Garvey
Troy Thelen, excused
Mike Halfman, excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Val Vail-Shirey (Committee Facilitator), Planning Commission/Board of County Commissioners Rep.
Jessica Bolt, Planning & Permit Technician
Joel Haviland, Building Official/Zoning/SESC Administrator
John Fuentes, County Administrator
Todd Campbell, Deputy County Administrator
Leslie Abdo, Foster Swift Collins & Smith (County Legal Counsel)

VISITORS

Alannah Woodring, ESA
Ann Gifford, 5371 W. Maples Rapids Road
Bob Craig, St. Johns
Claudia Pluger, Ovid Township Clerk
David D'Onofrio, ESA
David Hicks, Consumers Energy
David Vanderbroek, Eagle Township
Ed Rivet, MICEF
Fred Gifford, 7100 N. Williams Road
Gayla Phillips
Ian O'Ceary, University of Michigan
Jessica Tramontana, Consumers Energy Public Affairs Manager
Jody Smith, 4739 W. Gratiot Street
Juan Hannahs
Linda Gifford, 7100 N. Williams Road
Matt Drennan, ESA
Matt Wagner, DTE
Larry Kindel, 3273 W. Island Road
Robert Gifford, 5371 W. Maples Rapids Road
Ryan Boots, Duplain Township
Sarah Mills, University of Michigan
Steve Gust, 4488 W. Jason Road
Steven Gohlke, RWECE
Theresa Hubbard, 1124 E. Alward Road
Trent Hunt
Yuyzin, Wony, University of Michigan
Zona Martin, University of Michigan

INTRODUCTIONS

- *Each present member briefly introduced themselves and provided information regarding their background/interest.*
- Facilitator Vail-Shirey reviewed the binders that were dispersed to the Committee.
- Ken Wieber questioned how materials might be distributed moving forward?
- John Fuentes, County Administrator, indicated that members may email Staff materials, who will then disperse them among the Committee.

ROLE OF COMMITTEE

- Leslie Abdo, County Legal Counsel, reviewed the role of the Committee:
 - Advised the Committee to refrain “reply all” email strings to adhere to the Open Meetings Act (OMA).
 - *Reviewed the format of the meetings.*
 - *Discussed the goal of the Committee.*
 - To review and provide recommendations to the Planning Commission on potential amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regulations for utility scale solar and wind projects.
 - Make recommendations to the Planning Commission for final decision.
 - Identified County Legal Counsel's role as ensuring the Committee is following the steps required to implement ordinance amendments.
 - *Discussed the timeline that has been identified by the Planning Commission.*
 - *Reviewed the format of the ordinance amendment process.*

- Recommended the Committee review the current ordinance regulations in order to move forward according to the adopted timeline.

PRESENTATIONS

*(A) DR. SARAH MILLS,
U OF M*

- Facilitator Vail-Shirey introduced Dr. Sarah Mills, University of Michigan as the first presenter.
- Dr. Sarah Mills, University of Michigan, introduced herself and provided information regarding her background.
 - *Presented information to the Committee via PowerPoint presentation.*

*(B) DAVID HICKS,
CONSUMERS
ENERGY*

- Jessica Tramontana, Consumers Energy Public Affairs Manager, introduced David Hicks as the presenter for Consumers Energy.
- David Hicks, Vice President of renewables development and enterprise project management for Consumers Energy, introduced himself and provided information regarding his background.
 - *Presented information to the Committee via PowerPoint presentation.*
 - *Provided four pages of additional informational sheets to the Committee.*

*(C) MATT WAGNER,
DTE*

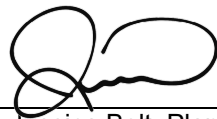
- Matt Wagner, Manager of renewable energy at DTE, introduced himself and provided information regarding his background.
 - *Presented information to the Committee via PowerPoint presentation.*
- *Facilitator Vail-Shirey thanked the presenters and discussed the upcoming presenters for the next Committee meeting.*

REVIEW / WRAP-UP

- Leslie Abdoo, County Legal Counsel, advised the Committee to start familiarizing themselves with the current ordinance regulations so they can be prepared once the workshop sessions begin.
- Lee Thelen asked when the Committee is going to begin working on revising policies?
- Margaret Sayles indicated that portion would begin in August, 2023.
- Lee Thelen suggested more time allowance for questions.
- Margaret Sayles encouraged the Committee to draft their questions and send them to Staff.
- Jan Motz reiterated that Staff routing the Committee's questions would be more effective.
 - Assured the Committee that the presenters for the next meeting are very different from the presenters tonight.
- Margaret Sayles commented that these presentations are meant to be informational to allow the Committee time to gather their thoughts and develop intelligent questions.

ADJOURNMENT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTION: With no further business to come before the Committee, Chairperson Sayles adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.



Jessica Bolt, Planning & Permit Technician

NOTE: These minutes were approved by the Advisory Committee at the July 6, 2023 meeting.