

Silver Creek Township Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Township Hall
32764 Dixon Street
Dowagiac MI 49047
Regular Meeting

1. Ben Schilling called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.
2. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
3. Roll Call
MEMBERS PRESENT: Nick Barnes, John Joossens, Ben Schilling, Veronnica Kenreich, and Julie Stark
MEMBERS ABSENT: Jon Tidey and Tim Feirick
OTHERS PRESENT: Jess Honn, Mark Davis, Wendy Colburn, and members of the public
4. Approval of the agenda for April 23, 2025
John Joossens motioned to approve the minutes from April 23, 2025
Ben Schilling seconded.
The motion passed by voice vote.
5. Approval of the minutes of March 26, 2025
Nick Barnes motioned to approve the minutes from March 26, 2025.
Julie Stark seconded.
The motion passed by voice vote.
6. Communications
None.
7. Public Comment
None.
8. ZBA Report
Updates given by Wendy Colburn.
9. Building And Zoning Administrator's Report
Updates given by Mark Davis.
10. New Business
 - a. Master Plan Survey; Add a map?
Veronica Kenreich has no new updates, but she will reach out again. Members agree that a map would be helpful to residents. Jess Honn said a PDF is available. Ben Schilling would like to see the QR code passed out to local businesses to try and drive more people to complete the survey.
 - b. Short Term Rental Ordinance was passed by the Township Board -update.

Mark is having trouble securing a local contact person for the rentals. He is encountering resistance, as many people are reluctant to hire someone for this role. Veronnic Kenrich noted that having a contact person is a common request and standard practice for landlords; even cleaning staff can serve as contact persons. It is part of the regulations and should be enforced.

Jess Hohn added that the contact person can reside anywhere. However, someone must be available to respond within 20 to 30 minutes if needed. This individual doesn't necessarily have to be someone they hire; they can be designated people, such as a family, friend, or neighbor.

Ben Schilling reminded everyone about the penalties for non-compliance: if a complaint is filed, it will be investigated. If the owner is found to be non-compliant, a fine can be imposed. Jess Hohn suggested sending out newsletters again, along with the tax bills, to remind people of the new rules and associated fines. Given that this is a new requirement, it would act as a helpful reminder.

Veronnic Kenrich plans to create a social media post to explain these new rules. Ryan Shields regularly reviews rental listings and investigates any properties that have not been registered. The initial fine for non-compliance is \$500, and the deadline for registration is June 1st. Applications can be found on the website.

c. Pick dates for Town Hall Meetings

Veronnic proposed 30 minutes before or after the June and July meetings. Members will let her know their availability.

11. Old Business

None.

12. Commission Member Comments

House Bill No. 4027 and 4028 were passed. Veronnic printed off copies for members. These bills focus on energy and alternative sources, including zoning exemptions for larger-scale solar, wind, and energy storage facilities. Veronnic wants members to begin considering ways to address common concerns.

13. Public Comments

None.

14. Next Meeting

May 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

15. Adjournment

John Joossens motioned to adjourn, seconded by Veronnic Kenreich

All members present supported. Meeting adjourned at 7:22

Recording Secretary, Wendy Colburn

Secretary, Veronnic Kenreich