

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 4, 2021

(Meeting was conducted by Zoom.)

Members Present: Jack Caughey, Chris Tennes, Tom Fasnaugh, Jeff Locke,  
Ben Kudwa, Joy Suits, Dave Falsetta and Barb Wickerham

Members Absent: Maureen Sorbet

Others who attended the Meeting:

Gary Suits-Benton Township Supervisor, Tammy Foster-Zoning Administrator and Roger Wickerham

Call to Order:

Chairman Jack Caughey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Supervisor Caughey led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Minutes Approval:

A motion was made by Jeff Locke, supported by Tom Fasnaugh to approve the minutes of January 7, 2021. Motion carried 8 ayes; 0 nays.

Public Comment Non-Agenda Items:

None

New Business:

**Zoning Ordinance Changes:** Supervisor Suits provided the commissioners with sample ordinances for “Public Nuisances” from Eaton County and Oneida Charter Township. He had asked that we review these ordinances to help gather information so as Benton Charter Township could adopt a public nuisance ordinance of their own.

The Commissioners had good comments and discussions. It was decided that Chairperson Caughey combine the ideas that the Commission discussed, and provide a draft copy of the suggested ordinance to Tammy Foster, and then bring back the draft ordinance to the Commission. Ultimately, the commissioners agreed that it was better to start smaller and more conservative with this ordinance and additional items could be added as needed.

The update will include but not limited to the following:

- Updating language from Eaton County Zoning Ordinance to better fit Benton Township’s needs
- Adding language regarding “keeping of animals”
- Adding language for junk cars

Also discussed:

-Burning Issues – Burning issues will not be included in this ordinance. It was felt that Benton Charter Township Fire Department already takes care of these issues and follows the State and Federal laws.

-Noise Issues – will not be addressed at this time.

Public Comment:

Jeff Locke inquired if there was any information on the Court of Appeals Decision.

Next Meeting Date:

If needed: March 4, 2021

Adjournment: 8:25

Prepared by: Barbara Wickerham, Planning Commission Secretary