

**HENRY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
1201 RACE STREET, SUITE 214  
NEW CASTLE, INDIANA 47362**

*Darrin Jacobs  
Zoning Administrator*

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The Henry County Planning Commission held a regular monthly meeting virtually via Zoom at 5:00 pm on Thursday January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Secretary Darrin Jacobs. Roll was called. Board members present were: Dale Cole, Bobbi Plummer, Rachel Clark, Larry Brayton, Jim Wenning, Marsha Gratner, and Olene Veach. Tom Green and Kenon Gray were absent. Also present was Darrin Jacobs, Zoning Administrator and Attorney Sean Row.

**Election of Officers for 2021**

Zoning Administrator, Darrin Jacobs, reminded the Commission that they currently had no President or Vice President and as the current Secretary he would conduct the election for President, and then turn the meeting over to the new President.

The Zoning Administrator opened the floor for nominations for President.

Olene Veach nominated Jim Wenning for President. Rachel Clark seconded the nomination. The nomination passed 6-0 with Jim Wenning abstaining.

Jim Wenning presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Jim Wenning opened the floor for nominations for Vice President.

Olene Veach nominated Dale Cole. Larry Brayton seconded the nomination.

Larry Brayton nominated Olene Veach. Rachel Clark seconded. Olene Veach declined the nomination.

Jim Wenning nominated Rachel Clark. Larry Brayton seconded. Rachel Clark was elected to office of Vice President by a vote of 5-1 with Rachel Clark abstaining

Dale Cole nominated Zoning Administrator Darrin Jacobs for Secretary. Olene Veach seconded the nomination. The nomination passed 7-0.

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**Previous Minutes**

The Board read and approved the December 10th, 2020 minutes on a vote 5-0 with Bobbi Plummer and Marsha Gratner abstaining. The motion to approve was made by Dale Cole and seconded by Larry Brayton.

**Calendar of meetings for 2021**

The Board approved continuing to schedule meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 5 PM. Dale Cole made the motion and Larry Brayton seconded. Motion passed 7-0

**Attorney contract for 2021**

The Board voted 7-0 to retain Sean Row as their attorney for 2021. Dale Cole made the motion and Olene Veach seconded.

**Solar Ordinance discussion**

Tom Green joined the meeting during this section.

The Zoning Administrator informed the Board that the County Commissioners had rejected the solar ordinance that the Planning Commission had sent them by a vote of 2-1 and had sent a letter dated January 12<sup>th</sup> stating their rejection and the reason for the rejection. The reason stated in the letter was that “Commissioner Dellinger and myself (Commissioner Tarantino) felt additional input was needed for modifications.”

The Zoning Administrator stated that the Planning Commission has 45 days from the date of the letter if they wish to take action. If the Planning Commission takes no action within 45 days the proposed ordinance dies. If the Planning Commission accepts the Commissioners’ rejection the proposed ordinance dies immediately. If the Planning Commission rejects the rejection, and sends the proposed ordinance back to the Commissioners for their reconsideration, the Commissioners have 45 days to take a final vote.

Dale Cole stated that he thought that Commissioner Tarantino seemed in favor of the ordinance while they were going through it and hoped that the Commissioners would take another look. Mr. Cole further stated that he thought that if the Commissioners were to visit a solar farm they would see that it is not that bad and can have benefits for the County. Mr. Cole stated that the Planning Commission had put a lot of work and thought into the ordinance and that it should be sent back to them for their consideration.

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Marsha Gratner asked if the Commissioners could still amend the ordinance if it was sent back to them. The Zoning Administrator and Attorney stated that the code was not entirely clear on that, but they could certainly adopt the ordinance and then turn right around and begin to make changes to it.

Tom Green stated he was not clear as to why the Commissioners felt they need additional input, stating they would most likely receive the same input that the Planning Commission had already heard at public meetings where the Commissioners were in attendance.

Rachel Clark asked Commissioner Bobbi Plummer if she could tell the Planning Commission what the Commissioners wanted to see in an ordinance.

Bobbi Plummer stated that her understanding from the December 16<sup>th</sup> Commissioners' meeting was that Commissioners Tarantino and Dellinger thought that changes needed to be made, but she wasn't aware of specifics. Ms. Plummer stated that she did not want the process to drag out and hoped that they pass an ordinance quickly. Ms. Plummer further stated that the Commissioners had all printed the proposed ordinance and were reviewing it individually.

Sean Row stated from the Commissioners letter it is unclear what they are looking for.

Dale Cole stated he would like to see the Planning Commission and Commissioners get together to discuss what the Commissioners want.

Jim Wenning asked if the Board should wait.

Sean Row suggested that since the 45 days would not expire until after the Planning Commission's next meeting, that he could draft a letter to the Commissioners requesting specifics as to what is objectionable to the proposed ordinance as written in order to discuss how to proceed.

Tom Green made the motion to proceed as Mr. Row had suggested, Dale Cole seconded. The motion passed 7-1 with Bobbi Plummer abstaining.

Dale Cole moved to table the solar ordinance rejection discussion until the February meeting, Tom Green seconded. The motion passed 8-0.

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**Unfinished Business**

President Jim Wenning and Dale Cole both wanted to welcome and congratulate the new Members, Commissioner Bobbi Plummer and Marsha Gratner.

The consensus of the Board was for the Zoning Administrator to prepare letters of thank you to Ed Yanos and Dan Roach for their service on the Commission.

With no other business Dale Cole made a motion to adjourn and Bobbi Plummer seconded.

Motion passed 8-0.

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President

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Secretary