

Keene Township Planning Commission

Minutes from Meeting Dated May 7, 2026

Briggs called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present - Denny Briggs, Cori Wilber, Matt Stahlin, Nate Wolff, Nancy Solomon

Recognition of Visitors: Six members of the community were present along with new Zoning Administrator, Larry Mercer, Jr.

Approval or Changes to the Agenda: Motion by Wolff to approve the agenda as written. Motion seconded by Stahlin. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Motion by Wilber to approve the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Wolff. Four in favor of the approval. Solomon abstained. Motion carried.

Report from Township Board Rep:

- The clean-up date on April 25th was successful although turnout was less than usual.
- A new Deputy Clerk was appointed by Melton. Travis Ebmeyer has accepted the position. Ebmeyer has also been appointed as the ZBA alternate.
- Larry Mercer Jr., new Zoning administrator was at the meeting and his duties began on April 1st.
- The board has been working on policies and best practices as needed.
- Code enforcement and procedures have been discussed. Mercer will be helpful in this process.
- Process clarification for when a Township Engineer is needed. Example: Private road development. The current process is not user friendly.
- Email was received concerning the Board's role in the final adoption of the Master Plan. The resolution was created to be consistent with the MPEA, which provides for Planning Commission preparation of the plan and allows the Township Board, by resolution, to assert final approval authority over the Master Plan.

Report from Zoning Administrator:

Welcome to our new ZA, Larry Mercer, Jr..

Mercer is the current ZA for Otisco and resides in Belding.

- Permits were issued for two decks.
- Working on Melton's private road.
- Wolf asked about complaint resolution. Mercer explained the process with a warning notice and specific time to handle complaints with a final notice given after 30 days.

Public Comment - Topics Not on the Agenda:

- Today is Wolff's birthday. Happy Birthday, Nate!
- Consumers is in the area trimming brush and trees around lines, per Supervisor, Smiley.

Old Business:

- Private Rd Application H Melton - Any Updates:
 - Much discussion about the delays. Melton will physically visit Ionia County Offices to resolve. She will relay information to Briggs to work out plans for a quick meeting to move it to Public Hearing.
 - It was suggested to create a check list for approvals that are needed in this type of situation.
- Master Plan Updates - Request quotes for mailing:
 - Motion by Wilber to go with PE Office Solutions. Motion seconded by Stahlin.
 - Motion amended by Wilber to see if Supervisor Smiley can offer a lower bid. This motion is requesting a proposal from Smiley providing a lower cost option. Bids would then be reviewed to determine the best | option. Motion seconded by Stahlin. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Ordinance Amendments - Data Centers, Cryptocurrency Data Mining Facilities Finishing Draft Ordinance and Set Public Hearing:
 - Section 12.33, Letter D, #8 on page 5
 - Change “sixty” to “fifteen”.
 - Section 12.33, Letter D, #15 on page 7
 - Wilber will provide examples of ordinances referencing the minimum and maximum amount of acres being used.
 - Section 12.33, Letter D, #18 on page 7
 - Add “structure height” after “maximum”.
 - Section 12.33, Letter D, #22 on page 7
 - Mike Homier will be contacted in reference to the wording.
 - Section 12.33, Letter D, #25 on page 8
 - First sentence - change “one year” to “six (6) months”.
 - Second sentence - add “County” before Building Official.
 - Last sentence - change “one (1) year” to “six (6) months”.
 - Section 12.33, Letter D, #26 on page 8
 - First sentence - change “to a different” to “for an alternative”.
- Briggs asked the Planning Commission to send him emails with any questions or concerns. All questions will be reviewed with the Attorney via Zoom meeting with Briggs and Supervisor Smiley.
- Motion by Wilber to table working on this Ordinance until questions/concerns are reviewed. Stahlin seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business: None.

Public Comment - Any Topic:

- Polly Wolff wanted a motion for Public Hearing for Melton’s private road. Briggs mentioned that more information is needed.

- Supervisor Smiley mentioned that our Township doesn't have public water which would be needed by a Data Facility. Is there a demonstrated need to have a Data Center, etc in Keene Township?

-

Adjournment:

Stahlin motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Wolff. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Minutes documented by Nancy Solomon.