

Grass Lake Charter Township Board
Supervisor
Jim Stormont

Star Crowdis
13150 Kalmbach Rd
Grass Lake, MI49240
517-795-5490

Trustees
Scott Bray
Barry Butterfield
Tom Brennan
Bill Lester

April 8, 2019

I am requesting a documented response to me at the address above for the following questions.

1. Mr. Stormont, at the last township meeting in March, you stated that there were six applicants that applied for the planning commission. You stated that there will be no planning commission opening because the person you thought was leaving is now staying. You then stated that all seven would be there indefinitely. Please explain how any member of the Planning Commission can be there indefinitely?

As of today, April 24, 2019, I have received ten applications to be considered for membership on the Grass Lake Township Planning Commission. Currently we have received two resignation letters creating 2 openings. The Township Board will select two of the candidates at our May 14, 2019 meeting to serve on the Planning Commission. Appointments are for three years and may be extended with approval by the Township Board.

2. Are all members of the Planning Commission appointed by the Township Supervisor (Jim Stormont)? And approved by the Board? **No. The Supervisor recommends candidates (after interviews) and the Township Board approves the appointments.**
3. Are all members of the Grass Lake Township Planning Commission residents of the Grass Lake? **Currently yes. Planning Commission member must be qualified electors of the township with the exception of one who may be a non-electors.**
4. The term for Chairperson, Vice Chair, and Secretary of the Planning Commission is one year. How long have the current Chairperson, Vice Chair and Secretary been in the current positions? **Chairman – 7 years, Vice Chairman – 13 years, Secretary – 2 years. Election of Officers for chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary are held yearly by the members of the Planning Commission.**
5. When there is a perceived Conflict of Interest with a Planning Commission Member, How is that handled? **If a planning commission member has a conflict of interest concerning an issue before the planning commission, he or she must disclose the potential conflict and thereby may be disqualified from voting on the issue pursuant to bylaws of the commission or by a majority vote of the remaining members of the commission.**
6. In the By-Laws it States "In order to be excused, members of the Planning Commission shall notify the Grass Lake Charter Township Office, Grass Lake Charter Township Supervisor. Planning Commission Chairperson, or other Planning Commission member when they intend to be absent from the following meeting. Failure to make this notification prior to the meeting shall result in an unexcused absence. Three (3) or more unexcused absence in any six (6) month period at the discretion of the Supervisor, may result in a request to the Township Board for removal of the member.

- a. Is this By-Law Enforced?
Yes.

7. Did the Planning Commission prepare a detailed report to the Board regarding their decision on the proposed mine? And how they came to that conclusion? On Norvell Rd? Did the Board approve? And communicate any and all concerns to the Planning Commission?

Detailed draft documents were prepared for the Planning Commission by our attorney, after Commission Members reviewed all written and verbal comments as noted at the two public hearings and public meetings. Two documents, one motion for a denial and one motion for an approval, were presented to the Planning Commission at the public meeting. The township board received a copy of the decision and the minutes from the October 12, 2017 public meeting. The planning commission has the authority to deny, approve, or approve with conditions, requests for special land uses. The decision shall specify the basis for the decision and any conditions imposed.

8. When the Master Plan was completed, did the Planning Commission hold at least one public hearing on the plan? And if so how was it communicated?

The updated Master Plan was approved December 13, 2016 by the Grass Lake Charter Township Board. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on November 17, 2016. The Planning Commission shall send a notice explaining its intentions to – Planning Commission's of each contiguous local unit of government, the county planning commission, county board of commissioners. The township then reviews and comments. The planning commission must then wait 63 days for receipt of any comments from those receiving the proposed master plan. The Planning Commission must hold not less than one public hearing on the proposed plan preceded by not less than 15 days published notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the township. The planning commission may approve the proposed master plan by resolution of a majority of its membership. It must then be submitted to the township board for final adoption.

9. Are educational opportunities offered to the Planning Commission? And if so, are there requirements that must be met in order to remain on the Planning Commission? If not, why?

Workshops are offered by MTA and planning commission members are encouraged to attend at least one per year when offered. The township pays for registration.

10. How does the Board deal with Bias from any member including the Planning Commission?

See comments for item 5.

11. Does the Board have evidence that members of the Planning Commission read the letters that were sent from Grass Lake Residents in regards to the Proposed mine? Did any member of the Board read them or the Supervisor Jim Stormont?

The planning commission chairperson made copies for all members. All of the issues were discussed by members at the regular and public hearing meetings. I read the letters that were personally handed to me.

12. How long has the current structure been in place where the Planning Commission which is appointed and not elected by the residents of Grass Lake can make decisions instead of recommendations to the Board? Language was put in the Zoning Ordinance Book and adopted in 1981 that the Planning Commission shall have the authority to grant special land use permits

13. Will there be a policy and procedure done for written and verbal complaints?

It is of the utmost importance to do this so all residents of Grass Lake can be treated fairly, not pick and choose which residents will be contacted in regard to a complaint and which won't. I truly recognize and have to back it up that there has been bias and favoritism to some residents of Grass Lake and don't ever want anyone to go thru what I did, retaliation, and bullying. It's against the law.

Currently only written complaints are accepted by the township pertaining to possible zoning ordinance violations.