

**BUTLER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 9, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Vice-Chairperson Chris Parker.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jay Cole, Janis Olney, Tom Waltke, Michelle Reed, Vice-Chairperson Chris Parker and Eileen VanVleet.

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Doug Bracy.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Township Supervisor Gary Smith, Zoning Administrator Matt Ashenfelter, Velma Cole and Greg Moore from Consumers Energy.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2023, meeting. T. Waltke/J. Cole. All I favor, motion passes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**REVIEW APPLICATIONS FROM ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:** None at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**DISCUSS SOLAR FARM REGULATIONS.**

The purpose of this meeting is to review Ovid Township language for solar farms and modify as necessary for a good fit for Butler Township.

Matt went over the information listed below and discussed whether or not the Planning Commission needed to make changes or to use the language as written.

“Definition of participating lot and non-participating lot. Setbacks, Landscaping, Ground cover, and buffering, Buffering/screening. Drainage, existing trees and woodlands, ground cover, maintenance, noise, glare, fencing, and required application information.”

There was a question about wetlands, and why use good farm land when you could use land not doing anything. There was also a concern about having to use certain pine trees. A question on how many acres is needed for setting up a solar farm. That is up to the planning commission how much land is allowed, and the percentage will be set up in the ordinance. Once land is set up in a solar farm it is usually set up for 30 years. There is no way to get released from that. There is a contract with the property owner and the solar farm company.

Greg Moore, from Consumers Energy passed out information **“GENERAL SOLAR FARM ORDINANCE PROVISION IDEAS THAT ARE CONDUCTIVE FOR SOLAR DEVELOPMENT.”**

Tom Waltke suggested reading this prior to our next meeting.

Matt Ashenfelter will make a draft of the ordinance proposal for Solar farms and present it to the Planning Commission at our next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn, J. Olney/J. Cole. All in favor, motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023, @ 7:00pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted:**



---

Eileen R. VanVleet