

**BUTLER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES-MAY 15, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order @ 7:00pm by Chairperson Doug Bracy

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jay Cole, Janis Olney, Chris Parker, Tom Waltke, Eileen VanVleet and Chairperson Doug Bracy.

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Michelle Reed

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Butler Township Supervisor Gary Smith, Zoning Administrator Matt Ashenfelter and Jeff Haines from DTE

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2023 meeting. C. parker/J. Olney. All in favor, motion passes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**REVIEW APPLICATIONS FROM ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:**

Two zoning permits were issued in April: Joseph DeLagrange, 30 X 65 Ag storage structure (hoop style -no floor). \$50.00. Sheri Bracy Trust, 100 x200 Ag shop/barn. \$50.00  
Joseph Delagrange, Unlawful sign, (orange Blossom Greenhouse) placed on Jonesville Rd., in Butler Township. Violation site visit conducted and a Quincy twp. Permit wrote for proper sign placement. Sign to be relocated to Quincy Township side of Jonesville Road. By 4/24/23.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**DISCUSS SOLAR FARMS REGULATIONS:** Matt stated that he submitted Solar Energy information to Township Attorney Chuck Lillis to review, the information on Liability insurance, "least \$1 million per occurrence and \$1 million in the aggregate" , and A tile damage bond" as written, is for three years in duration, acceptable to the Planning Commission and approved by the Township Board -the concern is regarding tile damage maintenance and who is responsible for the cost, the property owner or the company who put up the solar panels and if the damage is not found with the 3 year duration period. At this time, he has not heard back from Mr. Lillis.

**START REVIEW OF MASTER PLAN:** There was much discussion pertaining to the percentage of Ag land to be used for Solar Energy. A suggestion by Jay Cole to only allow 5%. Gary Smith suggested to have Solar and Wind in the 5%.

A motion to have 5% of Ag land to be used only for Solar Energy. J. Cole/T. Waltke. All in favor, motion passes.

There was discussion on Wind turbines.

There was a suggestion from the ZBA to make a language change to Section 11.04. pg. 3 & 4, General Sign Language. Because the Planning Commission had already decided to leave the language as is, A motion by J. Cole/T. Waltke to leave the language as it is written. All in favor, motion passes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**NEXT MEETING:** Next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2023. This meeting may possibly be an open public meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn. E. VanVleet/J. Cole. All in favor, motion passes.  
Meeting adjourned at 8PM.

**Respectfully Submitted:**



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**Eileen R. VanVleet**