

**BUTLER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES, March 20, 2023**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Doug Bracy

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

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2023, meeting. J. Cole/J. Olney. All in favor, motion passes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**REVIEW APPLICATIONS FROM ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:**

Zoning permits issued for February 2023:

Bidwell Road, 44 X 132 pole barn on foundation w/dirt floor. A. Steury, \$50.00.

Herricksville Road, 44 X 100 barn on foundation w/dirt floor, A. Steury, \$50.00.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**DISCUSS SOLAR FARM REGULATIONS:**

Matt handed out a new draft -Butler Township-Solar Energy Systems.

The Planning commission members went over every line item and discussed any changes with the language. They added or changed language they felt needed to be done.

There was a motion to keep the current residential language in 16.28, letter C and B 12

T. Waltke/J. Cole. All in favor, motion passes.

There were concerns regarding setbacks, which the language is standard.

There were also questions regarding Liability insurance, Maintenance, Public Safety. These are all covered with the contracts/leasing agreement with the property owner and the Solar company. In the Public safety section there was a suggestion to add language regarding first responder training and fire department training, providing site safety plans to include electrical, fire, smoke and hazardous materials release, emergency response protocols and identification of typical hazards related to, electrical, fire, smoke and hazardous materials related to the Solar farm.

There is also information regarding A Decommissioning Bond, Tile Drainage bond and an escrow account.

Zoning Administrator, Matt Ashenfelter, will compile all the information and language suggestions presented and send to McKenna Associates, and they in turn will send a revised copy to the Planning commission, who in will have the Township attorney look over.

Then the Planning Commission will approve the finished copy. Then public meetings will be scheduled.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Jeff Haines, from DTE stated that their company always has fire safety plans, liability insurance, maintenance issues in their contracts that are set up with the property owner. DTE is responsibility for all maintenance on the Solar Farms.

**NEXT MEETING:** Next Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2023, @ 7:00pm

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn, J. Cole/E. VanVleet. All in favor, motion passes.  
Meeting adjourned @ 9:00pm

**Respectfully Submitted:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen R. VanVleet". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Eileen R. VanVleet