

**Keene Township Planning Commission  
Special Meeting**

Minutes from meeting dated 1-6-2025

Briggs called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:02 PM.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Denny Briggs, Ray Krieger, Nancy Solomon, Matt Stahlin, Cori Wilber, Nate Wolff

**Recognition of Visitors:**

There were approximately 35 members of the community present along with Zoning Administrator, Jeanne Vandersloot.

**Approval or changes to Agenda:**

Briggs suggested moving the setting of the Planning Commission's 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Meeting Schedule first. Stahlin made a motion to move the minutes as Briggs requested. Solomon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

**Approval of last meeting's minutes - December 16, 2024:**

Stahlin motioned to approve the last meeting's minutes and Wolff seconded. Krieger and Wilber abstained because they were not present at the meeting. Motion carried 4-0-2.

**Report from Township Board Rep:**

Nothing to report per Wolff.

**Report from Zoning Administrator:**

Vandersloot gave her report.

There were various phone calls by appraisers and residents with miscellaneous zoning related questions.

The referendum on the commercial solar ordinance of 24-11-12 was officially filed with the Clerk. Steps are being taken to verify signatures, etc. This will determine if an election is needed.

**Public Comments Topics Not on Agenda:**

None.

### **Set 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Meeting Schedule:**

After much discussion, Stahlin motioned to set the next year's fiscal calendar to include the following meeting dates. Seconded by Solomon.

January 22, 2025 - Working meeting  
January 27, 2025 - Working meeting  
February 4, 2025 - Regular meeting  
March 10, 2025 - Public Hearing  
May 12, 2025 - Regular meeting  
August 11, 2025 - Regular meeting  
November 5, 2025 - Regular meeting  
February 3, 2-26 - Regular meeting

### **Old Business:**

Briggs explained why all three districts were included during the last Planning Commission Meeting and accepted comments from the Community.

Kim Newell wants only district three and wants Krieger to abstain from voting because he is a landowner in that district.

Wendy Wolff also only wants district three.

Holli Melton wants only enough land to cover our Township's designated need. Briggs explained that we use approximately 20 MW which can be generated over 60-100 acres but this doesn't account for growth.

Another community member requested Krieger abstain from voting.

Polly Wolff wants less than 400 acres devoted to renewables.

Someone asked to define a panel acre. He asked how this is benefiting the residents and not only the leaseholders.

George Raimer stated that Michigan is not a place for solar.

Gay Haddix stated the referendum was generated because districts one and two are not wanted. Keene is beautiful and people don't want solar panels.

Polly Wolff wants us to listen to our counsel as did Wendy Wolff.

John Timpson stated that changes are possible with our new administration. Bo Smiley agreed.

## **New Business:**

The transmission lines were mentioned along with the distances from the districts.

Krieger mentioned overlay districts and PA233. Briggs stated an overlay would make it non compatible. The date for the appeal suit has not been set. Many members agree to the appeal of the MPSC 10-10-24 order.

Wilber motioned to remove District 1 and District 2 from the Solar Ordinance and send to the Board for approval. Seconded by Solomon.

Roll call vote:

Wilber - Yay

Wolff - Yay

Solomon - Yay

Stahlin - Nay

Krieger - Abstain

Briggs - Nay

Motion carried 3-2-1.

After much discussion, the Solar, Wind and Energy Storage Moratoriums were voted on and approved as follows:

Wilber motioned to send the Solar Moratorium to the Board as presented. Seconded by Solomon.

Roll call vote:

Wilber - Yay

Wolff - Yay

Solomon - Yay

Stahlin - Nay

Krieger - Nay

Briggs - Yay

Motion carried 4-2.

Wolff motioned to send the Wind Moratorium to the Board as presented. Seconded by Stahlin.

Roll call vote:

Wilber - Yay

Wolff - Yay

Solomon - Yay

Stahlin - Yay

Krieger - Nay

Briggs - Yay

Motion carried 5-1.

Solomon motioned to send the Energy Storage Moratorium to the Board as presented.

Seconded by Wolff.

Roll call vote:

Wilber - Yay

Wolff - Yay

Solomon - Yay

Stahlin - Yay

Krieger - Yay

Briggs - Yay

Motion carried 6-0.

Briggs mentioned that the Planning Commission will work on the Wind Ordinance at the next meeting. The Battery Storage Ordinance will follow. Sandy Smiley will send sample ordinances to the PC. FAA rules will be addressed. Briggs also mentioned that the Full Overlay Renewable Energy Ordinance will be addressed.

New Officers were elected.

Stahlin nominated Solomon as Secretary. Seconded by Wilber. All in favor. Motion carried 5-0-1 (Solomon abstained).

Stahlin nominated Wilber as Vice-Chairperson. Seconded by Krieger. All in favor. Motion carried 5-0-1 (Wilber abstained).

Krieger nominated Briggs as Chairperson. Seconded by Stahlin. All in favor. Motion carried 5-0-1 (Briggs abstained).

### **Public Comment - Any Topic:**

Colleen Timpson mentioned the large barn fire near Dynamic Wood Products. She expressed concern about the false security she feels because it took 30 minutes for the first fire truck to arrive. John Timpson mentioned that he has equipment and can always help if there is a need.

John Timpson mentioned that large utility poles are going in across his land. He thought he was agreeing to be the smaller ones. He suggested that everyone ask more questions if confronted with a similar request.

### **Adjournment:**

Stahlin motioned to adjourn at 8:30 and seconded by Wolff. All in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes documented by Nancy Solomon.