

**Highland Township Planning Commission
Record of the 1398th Meeting
May 18, 2023**

Roll Call:

Grant Charlick, Chairman
Kevin Curtis
Chris Heyn
Beth Lewis
Roscoe Smith
Scott Temple
Russ Tierney
Guy York
Mike O'Leary

Doug Lewan, Carlisle-Wortman Associates
Anna Wysocki, Carlisle-Wortman Associates
Kariline P. Littlebear-Zoning Administrator
Elizabeth Corwin, Planning Director

Visitors: 60

Chairman Grant Charlick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Introductions, Explanation of the Master Plan process

Chairman Grant welcomed the audience to the public visioning session, explaining that this event is designed to solicit public input into as part of the process of developing a Master Plan. He introduced Doug Lewan, the Township Planning Consultant who explained the flow of the evening for the attendees.

Agenda Item #2: Presentation of background studies including survey results, demographics, land use statistics, and other resources and assets of the community.

Mr. Lewan presented a series of slides explaining the purpose of the Master Plan and summarizing background studies that describe key characteristics of Highland Township. He summarized the findings of the Residential Opinion Study completed in 2022. As in past iterations of the survey, the sentiment was to retain the rural character of the Township, preserve natural resources and support small local businesses.

Mr. Lewan reviewed a series of maps demonstrating how land use has changed over time in the Township. He explained the difference between a zoning map and the Master Land Use map and suggested some questions for the audience to consider.

Mr. Lewan explained that while the law requires communities to prepare a Master Plan, there is no requirement for the Township to solicit public feedback, other than after the plan is complete and being considered for adoption. He affirmed the Township's commitment to

public involvement and noted that the turnout tonight has exceeded what is sometimes seen in a more populated community.

Breakout Session:

Agenda Item #3: Breakout Sessions for various visioning topics

The Planning Commission members served as facilitators and notetakers at four stations, each focused on a particular topic including Residential Development, Transportation and Utilities, Business and Natural Features. The audience self-selected which topic to start at, then moved as a cohort through each of the stations.

Each station was set up with relevant maps and “ice breaker” statements or questions. The Planning Commission members recorded participant comments which were displayed around the Township Hall. Participants were given an opportunity to select which statements best reflected their personal priorities for the future.

Agenda Item #4: Recap of Public Participation and discussion of next steps

Mr. Charlick called the audience back to their chairs and explained that the results of the visioning session will be discussed at the June 15, 2023 meeting.

Adjournment:

At 8:20 p.m. Mr. Tierney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Lewis supported the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Roscoe Smith, Secretary
ARS/ejc