

Standish Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
4997 Arenac State Road, Standish, Michigan 48658
September 1, 2026

1. Call to order

In the absence of Chairperson Trombley, Commission member Stukel served as the Chairperson and called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 PM

2. Roll call:

Present: Stukel, Schwab, Buttrick

Absent: Castle and Trombley

3. Agenda Approval: Motion to accept the agenda with additions:

1. Short term rentals.
2. Nuisance noise ordinance board update.
3. Minimum home size ordinance board update.

Motion made by Schwab and seconded by Buttrick

Voice vote - Ayes 3 and 0 Nays.

Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes of 7-7-2026

Motion to accept the minutes with correction for motion and second on nuisance noise ordinance recommendation.

Motion made by Schwab and seconded by Buttrick.

Voice vote- Ayes 3 and 0 Nays.

Motion carried.

5. Unfinished business

Update:

1. There was discussion regarding the topic of short term rental limitations and problems that residents have communicated. The consensus was that it may be difficult to pass or enforce an ordinance that would limit rentals,

but instead residents should go through existing channels to address issues if they occur such as improper parking, noise, trespassing, etc.

2. An ordinance amending the Standish Township Zoning Ordinance 2014-11-01, TO MODIFY THE MINIMUM FLOOR AREA FOR DWELLINGS UNITS LOCATED IN RESIDENTIAL, AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION, FOREST AND RECREATION, AND THE LAKESHORE ZONING DISTRICTS., was amended and passed by the board on July 7, 2026. This allows the minimum floor area for dwelling units in the Residential, Agricultural Preservation, Forest and Recreational, and the Lakeshore zoning districts to be revised to:

- 720 square feet for a single-family dwelling and
- 1440 square feet for a two-family dwelling.

3. The nuisance noise ordinance was tabled by the board until further review and discussion.

5. New Business

1. Blight:

The Planning Commission discussed concerns regarding blight in the Township. The Zoning Administrator stated that three houses in the township have been condemned by Arenac County. The process for requiring property owners to address and correct the violations begins with a 30-day notice. If the required repairs or corrective actions are not complete within that period, the property owner is given an additional 60 days to bring the property into compliance. Residents of Standish Township are very frustrated with this process.

The Commission agreed to place blight on the next meeting agenda and invite focused community feedback to gather ideas and input regarding possible ways to address the issue.

2. Fences

The Planning Commission discussed fencing regulations in the Lakeshore District. The Standish Township Board sent the recommendation back to the planning commission, stating the revision was too vague and too limiting.

The Commission agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting and invite focused community feedback. The input received will help the Commission develop an updated recommendation to the Township Board for improving the Lakeshore District fence ordinance. The planning commission will resubmit a recommendation once we have more information and have discussed it with township residents.

3. Wind, Solar, Battery Storage, and Data Centers

The Planning Commission discussed wind and solar energy facilities, battery energy storage systems, and data centers, including whether the Township should consider adopting regulations addressing these uses. The public was informed that the Township Board is also discussing these matters and is considering a possible temporary moratorium while the issues and potential regulations are reviewed. No formal action was taken by the Planning Commission.

6. Public comment held:

- A resident suggested that the Township Board consider publishing a newsletter to better communicate with residents who do not regularly use the Township website. Discussion included who would prepare the newsletter, the types of information it might contain, and how frequently it could be published.
- Residents provided comments and participated in discussion regarding the Township's fence ordinance, including suggestions for provisions that should be considered in a future update.

7. Public Comment closed.

8 Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Schwab and seconded by Buttrick

Voice vote of 3 Ayes and 0 Nays

Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Amy Buttrick

Secretary