

Standish Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Standish Township Hall 4997 Arenac State Rd.
Standish, Michigan, October 7, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Roll Call

Present: Stukel, Trombley, Schwab, Castle, Buttrick.

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda:

Stukel made a motion to add agenda item 7, "Standish Township Master Plan Update" and to approve the agenda as amended.

Buttrick seconded.

Roll call: Schwab-yes, Stukel-yes, Buttrick-yes, Castle-yes, Trombley-yes. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes dated August 5, 2025 and special meeting minutes from 9/2/2025.

A motion was made by Stukel and seconded by Buttrick to approve the regular meeting minutes from 8/5/2025 and the special meeting minutes from 9/2/2025, with the addition of "see attached text amendments to item 3", along with the actual text amendments

Voice vote: 5 Ayes and 0 Nays. Motion carried.

New Business

1. Tiny Houses were discussed.

The current minimum square feet for a single family dwelling is 910 sq. feet in Standish Township. The Zoning Administrator commented that he received requests for 700 sq. foot. "tiny

homes” The planning commission noted that this topic will be included for discussion in the upcoming initiative to update the township master plan.

2. Safe Space Ordinance.

Renee Jenkins spoke about fencing and safe spaces for her yard. The current fence maximum is 30 inches, which is too low to keep children in a fenced area. The planning commission members decided to take up the matter at a later date because the township board is working on a new master plan for the township.

3. Solar Farms and Windmill Concerns.

A resident contacted Corey regarding concerns about having windmills and solar farms in the township. The planning commission discussed it briefly and decided to take up the matter at a later date during discussions for township master plan updates

4. Standish Speedway.

Jerry LaLonde, the owner of the speedway, was at the meeting to discuss his desire to open the speedway in 2026. He stated it would not be a typical racetrack operation. He plans to do special events such as bump and runs, demolition derbys, swap meets and possible tractor pulls. The planning commission requested him to present a proposal for his plans.

5. Fence Ordinance.

The fence ordinance in Standish Township has created many fencing issues, especially in the lakeshore district at Whites Beach. One resident requested guidance on replacing a snow fence surrounding a garden. The planning commission

suggested he address what may be done with the Zoning Administrator. The fence ordinance will be addressed in the township master plan update discussions.

6. 2026 Planning Commission Meeting Schedule.

The planning commission discussed and set the 2026 meeting schedule. The planning commission will meet every 2 months on the first Tuesday of the month, except as noted. The calendar dates are as follows:

January 6th

March 3rd

May 5th

July 7th

September 1st

November 4th* (Wednesday, election day is on the 3rd.)

A motion was made by Stukel to set the meeting schedule, and Buttrick seconded it. Voice vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

7. Standish Township Master Plan Updates

Stukel informed the planning commission that he had done some research into scope, cost estimates and potential funding sources for updating the Standish Township Master Plan. He stated that there was a possibility for funding from the Housing Readiness Incentive Grant Program, offered by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to cities, villages, and townships. These grants, up to \$50,000 per project, fund activities like master plan updates. More information will be gathered and updates given at the next planning commission meeting.

Public comment was held.

Announcements: Need Zoning Board of Appeals alternates and Board of Review alternates.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Schwab and seconded by Stukel. Voice vote 5 Ayes and 0 Nays. Motion carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16.

Minutes taken by Amy Buttrick, Secretary