

Standish Township Planning Commission Meeting
Standish Township Hall 4997 Arenac State Road
Standish, Michigan, March 3rd, 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Roll Call

Present: Trombley, Buttrick, Schwab

Absent: Stukel, Castle

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Schwab and seconded by Buttrick. Voice vote all in favor 3 Ayes and 0 Nays, motion carried.

Approval of minutes 1-6-2026. A motion was made to approve the minutes from 1-6-2026 by Schwab and seconded by Buttrick. Voice vote all in favor 3 Ayes opposed 0 Nays, motion carried.

New Business

1. Public Hearing for special use permit for Craig Gushow (Ralph Lopez property). A motion was made by Buttrick and seconded by Schwab to open a public hearing for the Gushow special use permit. Voice vote all in favor, 3 Ayes and 0 Nays. Motion carried, and the public hearing was opened.

Craig Gushow explained that the project was to extract sand, gravel, and create a wildlife sanctuary. The address of the land use permit is Richardson (west side) and Meyette Road. He presented Google Earth legend maps and Mapbox aerial maps of the property/project. He expected the pond to be 10 acres or less. The time frame was stated to be approximately 1 to 3 years, depending on the start date. He stated there are no wetland issues and that the soil erosion data would be submitted. Notices were sent to all property owners within 300 feet of the property. One inquiry was made by property owner Sandra Ragland. She had a concern about the effect on the groundwater and the ecosystem in the area. She was provided more information and then stated she felt much better about the project.

There were no comments from anyone in attendance on 3-3-2026.

A motion was made by Buttrick to close the public hearing, seconded by Schwab. Voice vote 3 Ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried, public hearing closed.

Planning Commission recommended approval of the Gushow special use permit. A motion was made by Buttrick and seconded by Schwab to approve the Gushow special use permit. Voice vote : 3 Ayes and 0 Nays, motion carried.

Unfinished business

1. Standish Speedway reopening/ Jerry LaLonde.

Jerry Lalonde attended the meeting and stated he is working on getting the property surveyed and will complete the necessary splits and combinations requested by the planning commission so the race track is on one parcel. Mr. Lalonde stated the stakes were up on his property and he is waiting for the survey from the survey company.

A motion was made by Schwab and seconded by Buttrick to table the plan until the final survey was reviewed.

Voice vote: 3 Ayes and 0 Nays, motion carried.

2. Lakeshore fences

There was much discussion about fencing issues: waterfront setback, see-through fencing and material type, the lakeshore view regarding fences, fence height, backlot fencing, enclosures, garden fences, and fences to protect landscaping.

The fencing topic needs more discussion and review. It is something that can be addressed when the township redoes its Master Plan.

A motion was made by Schwab and seconded by Buttrick to table the fencing discussion. Voice vote 3 Ayes and 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Public comment: none

Announcements: Need a Zoning Board of Appeals alternate

Adjournment 7:37

Standish Township Planning Board Secretary
Amy Buttrick