

WABASH COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION

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WABASH COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2023

**Wabash County Plan Commission Board
Wabash County Court House
Wabash IN 46992**

Board Members: Randy Curless, Jeff Dawes, Patty Godfroy, Sam Hann, Mark Milam, Doug Rice, Christian Rosen, Geoff Schortgen, Cheri Slee, Joe Vogel
Attorney Larry Thrush, Plan Director Brian Campbell, Secretary Amanda Lyons

Roll call was taken with the following Board members present: Joe Vogel, Sam Hann, Jeff Dawes, Cheri Slee, Doug Rice, and Christian Rosen. Those absent were: Geoff Schortgen, Mark Milam, Randy Curless, and Patty Lengel

Others present: Rachel Conner, Tyler Guenin, Brandon Swain, Pete Seat, Louella Krom, John Burnsworth, Lee Smith, Karen Smith, Daniel George, Connie George, Roger McGinnis, Corey Shepler, Jamie Shepler, Joe Cook, Bob Shultz, Libby Cook, Marcella Palmer, Patsy Favorite, Chris Benson, Ken Benson, Steve Downs, Lisa Downs, Donna Palmer, Richard Palmer, Cheri Paul, Connie Ehrlich, Jennifer Knebel, Daniel Stozaka, Rick Daihl, Traci Horner, Dalen Richards, Britney Richards, Jolene Shultz, Jared Shultz, Jean Schuler, David Peebles, Vaughn Peebles, Suzanne Peebles, Jim DeLong, Jerome Malott, Tami Hickman, Greg Montel, Cathy Montel, Carol Cly, Zach Donaldson, Bob Lundquist, Mike Shoemaker, Cris Renn, Dan Dale, Deb Dale, Kristie Bone, Dan Metzger, Latheda Metzger, Cathy Wolfe, Korey Aarstad, Lynne Getz, Joe Getz, Bonnie Keen, Mark Keen, Chris Shanks, Chris Neff, Colt Shepler, Dani Shepler, Max Highley, Randy Stout, Richard Monce, Alan Wojtkowiak, Dan Rish, Keith Gillenwater, Cheryl Ross, Roger Peebles, Jennifer Price, Shawn Price

The Wabash County Plan Commission Board met on Thursday, April 6, 2023 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Board Vice Chairman Mr. Christian Rosen. Mr. Rosen asked

if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 2, 2023 meeting. There being none, Mr. Rosen asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Dawes made the motion to approve the minutes as written, this was seconded by Mr. Hann. Roll call vote on the motion was taken with 6 voting members present in favor. The minutes will stand approved as written.

Mr. Rosen announced first on the agenda for tonight's meeting is a recommendation from the Wabash County Board of Commissioners for an amendment to the Wabash County Zoning Ordinance to allow a commercial solar energy system (C-SES) in an A1 district as a Special Exception per the "Chart of Designated Uses" in Section 3.6 of the current Wabash County Zoning Ordinance. Also, a proposed amendment to change the setback charts for C-SES on Chart #13.7.2.f and Chart #13.7.2.g to include C-SES by Special Exception in an A1 zone, County Wide. With that being said, pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-4-223, Plan Commission Member Randy Curless is disqualified and may not participate as a member of the Plan Commission in any hearing or recommendation of the Plan Commission concerning this matter inasmuch as he has a direct or indirect financial interest therein. Mr. Steve Downs introduced himself, representing the Wabash County Commissioners. Board members discussed the need for a larger meeting facility to enable the large crowd in attendance to hear what is being said and voice their concerns. Members of the crowd voiced their desire to have the meeting rescheduled and moved to a larger facility as well. Mr. Thrush and Mr. Campbell advised the Board they have 60 days from the date the recommendation was received to hold the public hearing, making the deadline April 21st and then 60 days after the public hearing is the deadline for the Plan Commission to vote. Mr. Rice made a motion to postpone the public hearing on the recommendation to Thursday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Honeywell Center, second by Mr. Vogel. Roll call vote was taken, with all members present voting in favor. Mr. Downs will contact the Honeywell Center on Friday to arrange a meeting room for Thursday, April 20th. Mr. Thrush encouraged those in attendance to submit written statements to be heard at the rescheduled meeting if they are unable to attend in person. Those statements can be emailed to the Plan Director, mailed to the Plan Commission Office, or dropped off to the Plan Commission Office in-person.

Mr. Rosen then introduced Mr. Chris Neff, NextEra project manager. Mr. Neff provided an update giving the status of the site testing the company is currently doing in Wabash County. They are doing their preliminary engineering stage including hydrology study, wetlands delineation, Alta survey, and drain tile mapping. Mr. Neff anticipates this will be complete by summer 2023. By fall 2023 they anticipate having a site lay-out, noise study, and landscape plan ready to present. Mr. Neff introduced Mary Solada, NextEra's attorney from Indianapolis. Ms. Solada indicated they would be going through all the requirements to file for a Special Exception, coming before the Plan Commission Board for a recommendation, and then a public hearing before the Board of Zoning Appeals. Ms. Solada reiterated that what is being discussed currently is not a request to start the project, but rather just to file the Special Exception Application. Mr. Neff indicated he

would attend the meeting scheduled for April 20th to provide an update since a large number in the crowd were not able to hear him. He encouraged those in attendance to check out the Wabash Energy Center Facebook page and to email him with other questions.

Next on the agenda, Mr. Rosen asked if there were any complaint updates. Mr. Campbell indicated he had no complaint updates to share and no other business to bring before the Board.

Mr. Campbell noted to the crowd that the agenda for the Thursday, April 20th will be the same as it was for the meeting this evening.

There being no further business Mr. Rosen asked for a motion to adjourn until the Thursday, April 20th meeting. Mr. Dawes made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hann. Vote on the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

*Amanda Lyons
Secretary, Wabash County Plan Commission Board*

**If any names are incorrect, spelled incorrectly, or omitted from the attendance in these minutes, we apologize.*

(bc)