

**Chairperson**  
Roni Christmas  
**Vice-Chairperson**  
Patti Schafer  
**Secretary**  
Sara Clark Pierson  
**Members**  
Adam Stacey (BOC Rep.)  
Frank Trierweiler  
Mark Simon  
Willis Heisey



**Community Development Dept.**  
**Director**  
Doug Riley  
**Planning & Permit Technician**  
Jessica Plesko

## Clinton County Planning Commission

Clinton County Courthouse  
100 East State Street, Suite 1300  
St. Johns, Michigan 48879-1571  
(989) 224-5180

### MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 8, 2021

**VIA VIDEO AND TELEPHONIC CONFERENCE**  
**Per State Executive Order concerning OMA and COVID-19**

**CALL TO ORDER** The Clinton County Planning Commission met on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. with Chairperson Christmas calling the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL** Roni Christmas (Bath, Clinton County MI)  
Patti Schafer (Eagle Township, Clinton County MI)  
Adam Stacey (Bath Township, Clinton County MI)  
Frank Trierweiler (Isabella County MI)  
Mark Simon (Olive Township, Clinton County MI)  
Sara Clark Pierson (Eagle Township, Clinton County MI)  
Willis Heisey (Duplain Township, Clinton County MI)

**STAFF PRESENT** Doug Riley, Director  
Jessica Plesko, Planning & Permit Technician  
Joel Haviland, Building Official/Zoning/SESC Administrator  
Erin McElroy, Building Department Secretary/Accounting Clerk  
Gabrielle Herin, (MSU) Planning Intern  
Kelsie Stuber, (MSU) Planning Intern

**VISITORS** Doug Steffen, Clinton County Road Commission Managing Director

**AGENDA** The agenda was presented for review and approval.  
**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:** Sara Clark Pierson moved, supported by Frank Trierweiler to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES** **PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:** Sara Clark Pierson moved, supported by Patti Schafer to approve the March 11, 2021 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes as presented. Voting on the motion by roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. [Vote of 7-0, all in favor, none opposed.]

**COMMUNICATIONS**  
*PA116 APPLICATION* Doug Riley, Director provided a summary of the ***Notice of Farmland & Open Space Application (PA-116) – Linda Chant – Olive Township:***

- Doug Riley suggested a recommendation for the Planning Commission to receive and place on file.

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:** Frank Trierweiler moved, supported by Patti Schafer to receive and place on file. Voting on the motion by roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. [Vote of 7-0, all in favor, none opposed.]

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** Chairperson Christmas called for public comments. There were no public comments.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

*CCRC UPDATE*

Chairperson Christmas called on Doug Riley, Director for report.

- Doug Riley, Director:
  - Reviewed **Clinton County Road Commission – Current/Upcoming Projects**, noting the following:
    - Given the current updating of the Comprehensive Plan and associated Future Land Use Maps, it is beneficial to have discussion with the Clinton County Road Commission regarding their upcoming projects.
    - Turned over to Doug Steffen, Clinton County Road Commission Managing Director for report.
- Doug Steffen reviewed the **2021 County Road Commission Primary Road Projects and Map** with the Commissioners:
  - A round-about is going to be constructed at the corner of DeWitt and Clark Roads in July, 2021.
  - Over 200 of 1,100 miles of total road will be worked on within the year.
- Doug Riley asked Doug Steffen to elaborate on the closure of Colony Road and paving of Scott Road.
- Doug Steffen replied that the intersection of Colony Road and US-127 Highway will be closed.
  - A cul-de-sac will be constructed on the east side of the highway in the upcoming summer.
  - Scott Road will become an all-season road to assist with the flow of traffic.
- Doug Riley inquired if encouraging additional residential development on Round Lake Road in Victor Township would be conflicting with the Road Commission's plan/data.
- Doug Steffen responded that they could review their data regarding safety, noting they perform regular maintenance on Round Lake Road.
  - Thanked Doug Riley for his collaboration and work to strengthen their offices' relationship.
- Frank Trierweiler commented that the chip-seal material used for surface treatment is a great product.
- Doug Steffen agreed.
- The Planning Commission thanked Mr. Steffen for his update.

OTHER BUSINESS

*COMP. PLAN UPDATE  
– STAFF UPDATE*

- Doug Riley, Director provided a brief update:
  - **Comprehensive Plan (5 Year) review/update – Staff (Progress) Update**, noting the following:
    - The Michigan State University Planning Interns have been assisting his office staff (i.e. Joel Haviland, Jessica Plesko and himself) with the survey as well as other comprehensive plan update tasks.
    - The survey responses thus far have been thoughtful; however, there has not been a lot of participation to date.
    - The survey is planned to run until May 31, 2021.
    - Local Townships have been encouraged to host the survey and it has been promoted via Clinton County's social media accounts.
    - Starting to meet with the individual Townships regarding their Future Land Use Maps.
    - Recommendations are predicted to be prepared in late summer - early fall.

COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

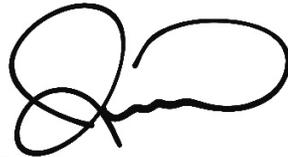
- Doug Riley, Director provided a brief update:
  - The two cases that the Planning Commission recommended for approval to the Board of County Commissioners in March, 2021 were both approved.
- Doug Riley noted that there will likely be a case for the month of May.
- Adam Stacey asked the Commission what their feelings are in regards to remote meetings.
- Sara Clark Pierson inquired why not have meetings remotely?
  - Her school board meetings' participation has greatly increased with remote capabilities.
  - Perhaps remote meetings should be considered long-term.
- Adam Stacey questioned the legitimacy of allowing people to travel and do their jobs.
- Patti Schafer commented that the Mid-Michigan District Health Department released information indicating an increase in COVID-19 cases in the mid-Michigan area.
  - Many people are not being cautious – which is causing issues with the length of quarantine.
- Adam Stacey commented that there is data that says the states that are under lockdown have the same (or higher) COVID-19 transmission numbers as states not under lockdown.
- Sara Clark Pierson commented that in regards to her school board, she has been hearing a lot of positive feedback from parents that they can participate from home and still be with their children.
- Roni Christmas commented that the remote meetings have been convenient for her being in Florida last winter.
  - With the COVID-19 transmission numbers increasing in Michigan, she was hesitant to come back to Michigan.
  - Questioned if wearing masks in in-person meetings would be better or worse.
  - For now, remote meetings may be better.
- Adam Stacey asked the Commission who would feel uncomfortable having an in-person meeting in June.
- Sara Clark Pierson responded that she is cautious but would feel slightly uncomfortable.
- Patti Schafer cited personal reasons for feeling uncomfortable with in-person meetings during this time.
- Frank Trierweiler commented that there are a lot of unknowns regarding COVID-19.
- Mark Simon stated that Olive Township will be resuming in-person meetings.
- Willis Heisey stated that he is ready to resume in-person meetings.
  - There may be a hybrid option to allow remote participation in addition to in-person participation.
- Sara Clark Pierson replied: that may be an option in the future but would likely take time to set up.
- Doug Riley commented that there would be potential for issues regarding the number of in-person participants with current meeting restrictions.
- Sara Clark Pierson agreed and commented that there may be adversities regarding eliminating remote capabilities for the public.
- Frank Trierweiler asked Sara about the quality of her school board meetings.

- Sara Clark Pierson responded that the quality is good with the effect being a longer meeting time due to increased participation.
- Adam Stacey thanked the Commission for their comments.
- Roni Christmas commented that perhaps there may be additional hybrid meeting options – to only allow staff, the Commission and the applicants in the Board Room and remote participation for the general public.
- Doug Riley confirmed he would stay up to date on best practices.
- Chairperson Christmas called for Commissioners' comments. There were no comments.

PLANNING  
COMMISSIONER  
COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:** With no further business to come before the Board, Mark Simon moved, supported by Patti Schafer to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Voting on the motion by roll call vote, motion carried unanimously. [Vote of 7-0, all in favor, none opposed.]



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Jessica Plesko, Planning & Permit Technician

*These minutes were approved by the Planning Commission on 05/13/2021.*