

Billings Township Planning Commission
Thursday, March 1, 2026
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:17pm by Linda McSweyn.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present: Christine Bloom, Linda McSweyn and Bridgett Petsnick

Board Members Absent: Greg Bates, Robin Laske and Carol Ayers – no longer on the committee

Guests Present: Cindy Dodge, Rose Mallot, Tim Mester and Cindy Whittington

Agenda: Linda McSweyn added the selection of a temporary co-chair and appointment of a secretary to the agenda.

A motion was made by Bridgett and 2nd by Linda to appoint Christine Bloom as temporary Co-Chair for a three-month period during Greg Bates' leave. Motion carried unanimously.

Due to the resignation of Carol Ayers as Secretary, a motion was made by Linda and 2nd by Christine to appoint Bridgett Petsnick as Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Bridgett and 2nd by Linda. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes: No minutes were available for the approval from the previous meeting due to a lack of quorum.

Public Comments: Cindy Whittington expressed appreciation thanked the community. Tim Mester acknowledged prior lack of involvement and expressed his commitment to supporting the Planning Commission moving forward.

Communications: Discussion was held regarding the community survey. It was noted that the current version is considered a draft and should be submitted to the Township Board for review and approval.

Discussion also included Planning Commission membership requirements. Clarification is needed regarding whether the board consists of 5, 7 or 9 members. Cindy will review the ordinance, and Linda will provide the necessary documentation.

Interest was noted from Rose Mallot in joining the Planning Commission, pending confirmation of bylaws and eligibility requirements.

Additional discussion included:

- Board member terms and staggered appointments
- Appointment authority of the Township Supervisor
- Importance of ensuring proper legal standing of all members
- Michigan Township Association (MTA) recommendation to administer an oath of office

It was noted that Greg Bates is currently on leave and intends to

return. The Commission expressed full support for his continued membership.

Old Business:

Master Plan/Zoning Administration - Cindy discussed enforcement responsibilities related to zoning ordinances. She requested documentation outlining the role and job description of the Zoning Administrator (ZA) to ensure compliance and reduce legal risk.

Discussion included:

- Separation of enforcement responsibilities
- Need for Planning Commission support from the ZA
- Role and procedures of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)
- Importance of bylaws and formal processes

Linda and Rose will gather and provide the requested documents. Existing records will be reviewed before developing new materials.

Short term rentals – Tim Mester discussed potential regulation of short-term rentals (e.g., Airbnb). Considerations included registration requirements, possible fees, and enforcement challenges. It was noted that action would require Township Board involvement.

Marijuana Regulation - Discussion was held regarding medical and recreational marijuana regulations. It was noted:

- Medical marijuana requires an ordinance to allow
- Recreational marijuana requires an ordinance to prohibit
- The Township Board holds decision-making authority
- The Planning Commission would determine zoning locations if permitted

Potential revenue, accessibility considerations, and trends in neighboring townships were discussed.

Next agenda:

- Status of Township Board approval of the community survey
- Review of ordinance and bylaws to determine Planning Commission size
- Discussion on short-term rental registration process
- Continued discussion on marijuana regulations

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Christine and 2nd by Bridgett. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridgett Petsnick
Billings Township Planning Commission Secretary