Chairman Peat called the Paw Paw Township Planning Commission meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. on December 15, 2015 at the Township Hall.

PRESENT: Randall Peat, Ivan Olsen, Don Stull, Kip Kerby, Phillip Arbanas, and Bill Johnson.

ABSENT: James Tapper.

ALSO PRESENT: Rebecca Harvey (Planning Consultant), Catherine Kaufman (Township Attorney), Bert Gale (Zoning Administrator), and Kelly Largent (Zoning Administrator).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion by Olsen, supported by Kerby to approve the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 22, 2015: Motion by Stull, supported by Arbanas approve the October 22, 2015 minutes as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rebecca Harvey presented a revised draft of chapter 3 of the master plan. Ms. Harvey discussed the added information and the new references to the Regional Prosperity Initiative Region 8 plan, which was recently approved. Ms. Harvey discussed the Target Marketing Analysis which is currently underway and will be completed in June 2016. This data will be available in time for inclusion in the Master Plan so Ms. Harvey has added a section in Chapter 3 to introduce this data which will be included in Chapter 4. Chapter 2 narrative is still being updated. Chapter 4 data has been compiled however Ms. Harvey would like the Board’s feedback on the revised Chapter 3 before finishing chapter 4. Ms. Harvey has proposed presenting the maps, the narrative for chapter 2, and draft of chapter 4 for the January 28, 2016 meeting.
The Board commented on chapter 3 indicating they liked the Open House concept and that references to Van Buren County and Regional Prosperity Initiative Region 8 in the coordinated planning section. Board had no changes for chapter 1 and commented that it is easy to read and flows nicely.

The Chairman opened the public hearing at 6:46 PM for the text amendment regarding site plan review. There was no public comment. The Chairman closed the public hearing at 6:47 PM.

The Chairman asked the Board members for comments. Johnson asked about the numbering format. Attorney Kaufman reviewed the amendment with the Board.

Motion by Kerby and supported by Stull to move the text amendment for site plan review to the Township Board with the recommendation to approve the proposed amendment. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed the presented meeting schedule. After discussion of the November and December dates it was decided to make a decision later in the year. The Planning Commission Board adopted the meeting schedule as presented. A copy will be given to the Clerk for publication

OLD BUSINESS: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Stull commented that he liked the idea by Olsen for having a meeting prior to the revision of the Master Plan, however both Olsen and Stull noted the difficulty associated with community involvement. Chairman Peat provided an update on the progress of Peat’s English Cider development. Attorney Kaufman stated that her experience indicated that Open Houses work well in for getting community involvement with the Master Plan.

The next meeting will be January 28, 2016 at 6 PM.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Olsen, supported by Kerby to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Largent
Zoning Administrator