Chairman Peat called a regularly scheduled meeting of the Paw Paw Township Planning Commission meeting to order at approximately 7:00 on March 22, 2012 at the Township Hall.

Those present were:  Randall Peat  
Phil Arbanas  
Tom Beam  
Kip Kerby  
William Mihelich  
Ivan Olsen  
Donald Stull

Absent: None

Also present were: Bruce Dean, AGS

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Peat requested amendment of the agenda to remove the Preliminary Site Plan – Vargas, based on a request from the applicant’s attorney. On motion by Olsen, seconded by Arbanas, the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 28, 2011

On motion by Kerby, seconded by Mihelich, the minutes of July 28, 2011 were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT on non-agenda items – none

NEW BUSINESS

A. Site Plan Application – Walt & Maries Country Store

Ken Meyers was present to describe the request. He described the operation of the restaurant area as being somewhat similar to a Panera Bread. The menu will be light food items: pizza, burgers, and panini.
In response to Peat, Meyers confirmed that they would propose paving with two years.

There was discussion of the existing lighting and fencing on the site, and that the deliveries are largely from Gordon Food Service.

There was discussion regarding the need for additional parking for the existing business, and the restaurant seating. It was the consensus of the members that the parking can be reviewed only if a parking problem is determined by the Township.

Kerby moved to recommend that the Township Board approve the site plan with the condition that the paving of the required additional 27 spaces, deferred pending further determination of need. The motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS - none

OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT - none

OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding the Wal-Mart planned south of I-94 on M-40. Kerby reported that he had attended an informational meeting in the Village of Paw Paw.

Dean provided a summary of the circumstances leading up to the withdrawal of the Vargas Site Plan. There was a short discussion of the procedure to be followed: appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Stull provided a report regarding the Township Board’s consideration of the “keeping of chickens” and the “outdoor wood-fired boilers” ordinances. There is no support for moving forward at this time on the “chicken” issue, since no actual problem has been identified; and, the Township Attorney has some suggestions on the “outdoor wood-fired boilers” ordinance, which Dean will attempt to obtain for consideration at the next PC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Stull seconded by Olsen and unanimously approved the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Dean, AGS