

Yates Township Planning Commission
Yates Township Community Building
6437 S Nelson Road
Idlewild, MI 49642

Regular Meeting

Planning Commission Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2026
5:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

- 1) **Call to Order:** Chairperson Amy Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm
- 2) **Roll Call:**
Present: Commissioner Amy Ellis, Commissioner Blair Evans, Commissioner Linda McClure, Commissioner Colleen Carrington Atkins; Commissioner Brad Dutmer, Ex-Official Member Shawn Coffey, Trustee
- 3) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4) **Approval of the Agenda**
Commissioner Evans moved to approve the Agenda. 2nd by Commissioner Ellis. Voice vote: All in favor. Motion carried.
- 5) **Information from the public for items on the agenda including hearings**
The public was allowed to speak on agenda items.
- 6) **Approval of the minutes**

Commissioner Evans moved to approve the May 18, 2026 minutes. 2nd by Commissioner Carrington-Atkins. Discussion: Commissioner Evans requested the minutes reflect that Commissioner Dutmer made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Evans seconded this motion. Minutes were approved with the correction. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Evans moved to approve the June 11, 2026 minutes from the joint meeting. 2nd by Commissioner McClure. No further discussion. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

7) Unfinished Business and Reports

- a. **Training updates:** Commissioner Dutmer is half-way through the Citizens Planner class conducted on-line by MSU.
- b. **Report from each member of the Commission on the segment of the township they represent for the past month:** Commissioner Dutmer expressed concern on the condition of many of the roads and will report at the next meeting with more detailed information.
- c. **Update on Master Plan:** Stephan Carlson, WMSRDC Program Manager was present on ZOOM and discussed the next steps in completing the Master Plan. Point of Contact, discussed

Regarding the community surveys:

- Even though everyone will not complete the survey, the survey will still serve as a communication tool illustrating that progress is being made toward completing the master plan.
- Surveys are due back in 3 weeks, however, the survey can remain open beyond the due date. WMSRDC is working on providing additional details.
- In relationship to prior surveys, there was a question regarding what works and the process should avoid.
- **Stephan Carlson will provide an example of what type of information would be requested.** Clarification regarding the framing and understanding the process is necessary.
- **Supervisor Grier will also provide the framework and information regarding prior surveys that were conducted requesting township input.**
- Supervisor Grier discussed the need for "foot soldiers" to canvass the community.
- An ad will be placed in the Lake County Star advertising the August 3rd meeting from 10am – 4pm including the Office of Rural Prosperity (ORP) that will be held at the township hall. This meeting will focus on asset mapping. Registration is required for this meeting.
- **By midnight July 18, 2026, the Planning Commission will receive information regarding the survey and prior surveys from Supervisor Grier.**

Action Item: Commissioner Evans moved for the Planning Commission to go over the materials provided by WMSRDC and Supervisor Grier and bring suggested survey questions and any other information to assist in the development of the survey for the Master Plan. The deadline for submitting information is Monday, July 20th. 2nd by Commissioner Carrington-Atkins. No further discussion. Voice vote: All in favor. Motion Carried.

- 8) **New Business:** There was no additional business other than stated agenda items for this meeting..

9) Announcements:

a) The Materials Management Planning Committee (MMP) and WMSRDC are working to bring Lake County into compliance with new state laws regarding Solid Waste. The idea is instead of determining land fill capacity, emphasis is on increasing recycling.

WMSRDC is designated as the contact for counties, including Lake County, to develop a plan to put in place by July 2027.

Each county has 4 representatives and 2/3 of the entire community in WMSRC's jurisdiction will need to respond to the plan. \$10,000 per year will be allocated for a site or facility.

The attached handout was distributed in this meeting to provide information on this initiative and more detailed information is upcoming from WMSRDC.

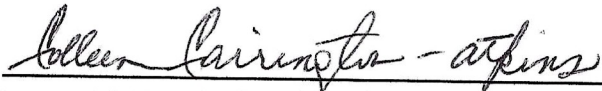
b) Election of Planning Commission Chairperson and Secretary is pending until the appointment of the 7th member of the Planning Commission.

10) Public Comment according to Planning Commission By-Laws:

Suggestions were given to the Planning Commission regarding structuring survey questions.

11) Membership Comments

12) Adjournment: Commissioner Evans moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm. 2nd by Commissioner Ellis. All in favor. Motion carried.


Respectfully submitted: Colleen Carrington-Atkins