

Village of Bear Lake Planning Commission Agenda

Date: August 14, 2025

Time: 6 PM

Location: Village Hall, 12016 Russell Street, Bear Lake, MI 49614

Planning Commission Members

- **Chairperson:** John Virga
- **Acting Vice Chairperson:** Meg Kieskowski
- **PC Members:**
 - Ian Myers
 - Jason Care
- **Acting Secretary:** Michelle Swanson
- **Ex officio members:**
 - **Village President:** Shelly Lynnes
 - **President - Pro Tem:** Janene Gee

Call to Order

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
- Public comments regarding the Agenda

New Business

1. **Introduction of Michelle Swanson**
 - Swanson is our new Planning Commission member.
 - Swanson will review the role of the Recording Secretary and the checks and balances of the Recording Secretary and the Planning Commission Secretary
2. **Introduction of David Jarhvi from the County Planning Department**
 - Jarhvi is our Zoning Administrator for the Village of Bear Lake
 - Overview of when to engage David and his team

Old Business

1. Zoning Updates Review

- Review Zoning Ordinances updates with David Jarhvi and the Planning Commission, which addresses conflicts and ambiguities in existing ordinances.
- Need to inform the Village Council, once the Planning Commission are satisfied, with the revised ordinances.

2. Master Plan Update

- Review the existing [Village Master Plan draft](#)
- Feedback on the significantly shortened draft Master Plan.
- Janene - Resident feedback via survey.
- Set timeline for survey distribution and Master Plan update completion.
- Final step: Ensure any appropriate funding is updated in the Village Council Capital Improvement Plan and Budget for the next fiscal year

3. Historic Bank Building Development Plans

- Update on the [historic bank building draft development plan](#) progress and status.
 - i. Meeting with Sarah Marsom, Jim Reed and John Virga last week regarding grants and historic status
 - ii. Sarah revised the development plan and provided feedback on the best next steps
- Next steps:
 - i. Meet with Hannah Yurk at MEDC for review of the development plan and refine the grants that we will help apply for.
 - ii. Follow up on historic status with the contact that Sarah provided.

4. Request to determine the feasibility of a walk path from Hopkins Park to the Ice Cream Shop

- Follow up on the project that started with an ADA walk path from Hopkins Park to the Ice Cream Shop, but after talking to property owners, there is an overwhelming want for accessibility from the rear of their properties.
- Goal: Determine if there is a feasible option to yield something fair for all similar properties that boundary with camp sites.
 - i. Prerequisite: The solution must be something that is available for similar neighboring lots and not special treatment of one owner.
- Background: Kelly Smith owns the old Barber shop on US-31 and is converting it into an Ice Cream shop that is opening in the Spring of 2026.

- i. Smith wants to make an easier way for people to walk up to the downtown businesses, like her Ice Cream Shop, but it would benefit other businesses as well.
- o John Virga & Kelly Smith are brainstorming potential solutions.
- o Next Step: Kelly Smith will attend the September 11, 2025 Planning Commission meeting with some ideas to discuss in more detail before going to the Village council with a potential proposal.

5. Guest: Tammy Puite – Bridge Beautification & Irrigation Project

- o Update on status.

6. Sidewalk Safety Audit

- o Goal: Rank sidewalks from worst to best for repair prioritization.
- o Discuss options to distribute responsibilities and timeline for sidewalk health survey completion and to review the results later this year.

Public Comment

- Open floor for resident comments and questions.

Adjournment

- The Village of Bear Lake Planning Commission meets every 2nd Thursday, May through October at 6 PM
- Adjourn.