

**Village of Michiana
Planning Commission Public Hearing
August 8, 2026**

Attendance: Planning Commission Members Chair, Julie Bonello, Kathleen Hogan Morrison, Ron Rossetto Maureen Shekleton, and Karen Szyp.

Absent: Mike Botelho

Public Attendance: See attached sign in sheet

1. Call to order at 10am EST by Commission Chair, Julie Bonello
2. Introduction of Commission members
3. Chair Bonello presented an overview of the purpose of a Master Plan to drive land use, zoning decisions, ordinance development, and promotion of the public welfare, health and safety. She explained how development of the 2026 Village of Michiana Master Plan has followed the requirements of the Michigan Planning and Enabling Act (Public Act 33 2008) and was data driven following resident surveys, meetings with elected council members and department staff as well as a community forum. The proposed plan has been posted on the Village website and shared with surrounding communities. No comments were received from any adjoining municipalities. The Act also requires this public hearing before final approval by the Village Council. After today's hearing a Planning Commission meeting will be held to review comments and if there are no substantive changes a resolution to approve will be forwarded to the Council for final action. Once approved the state act requires an annual review and an update of the Master Plan every five years.
4. The goals of the plan were reviewed by Chair Bonello who emphasized that the goals were developed and prioritized based on the data obtained and showed that the focus of the community is on preserving the natural surroundings and character of the Village.
5. The hearing was opened for public comment. Comments are summarized below and reflect agreement and consensus among those who spoke:
 - a. Many emphasized that it is important that this plan be used and not just filed away. Yearly review of progress in meeting plan goals needs to be communicated as a report - can be in writing or in a community forum. Noted that resident awareness and participation in achieving the plan goals is important.
 - b. The vision statement is perfect and, given the amount of work the Village Council already has to do, - recommend the creation of committees to help move this plan into action, especially a beach committee and a parks and recreation committee.

- c. Strongly agreed with the Natural Features Goal and the action steps in 14. The Village should maintain a transparent document so that Village residents can see the progress made on this and all other action items.
- d. A Code Enforcement Officer could be part of an existing officer's job.
- e. There is a need for data before investing in a new police facility. A community policing model might be useful.
- f. Speed bump placement needs to consider cyclist safety.
- g. Consider how part time residents can have a greater voice in Village affairs since non residents cannot vote by law. Emphasis should be on inclusivity
- h. Agree with the Village Management Objectives and Action Steps.
- i. Access to Village hall is important to residents.
- j. Many attendees thanked the Commission for a thorough, transparent and inclusive process and stated appreciation for the emphasis on community participation and transparency.

Written Comments were submitted by one attendee and are attached below.

- 6. Commission Chair Bonello thanked attendees for their participation and, after hearing no further comments, the hearing was adjourned at 10:35am EST.

Notes about the Michiana 2026 Master Plan from Liz Cutler, 3973 Lake Shore Dr.

This is a brilliant plan and in all my years in Michiana, I have never seen anything like this. I especially appreciate the deep thinking and transparency about the process. I vote that we accept it completely and act on it.

The vision statement is perfect and, given the amount of work the Village Council already has to do, I recommend the creation of committees to help move this plan into action, especially a beach committee and a parks and recreation committee.

13.1: I strongly agree with the Natural Features Goal and the action steps in 14. I hope the Village maintains a transparent document so that Village residents can see the progress made on this and all other action items.

26: I agree with the idea of a Code Enforcement Officer and think it could be part of an existing officer's job.

28: I especially appreciate the emphasis on reporting and transparency.

38: I disagree with adding speed bumps to hills unless there is a big area in the middle or on either side to avoid them for cyclists. That is very dangerous for bicycle riders, especially younger ones and it also creates liability for the village. Also, unless they are removable, this is a problem for snow removal.

39: I am against the new police station. It doesn't seem necessary. If what is needed is a safe room for interrogation or certain equipment storage, put a classroom type pod on the far side of the building or in the back. I do not want my tax dollars to pay for this.

41: I am interested in the community policing model and wonder what they might look like.

42: I completely agree with the need for data before investing in a new police facility.

44: I agree that second homeowners should be able to vote on some things. We have taxation without representation, and we know where that led in 1775.

47: I completely agree with the Village Management Objectives and Action Steps

Sincerely,

Liz Cutler

3973 Lake Shore Dr.

Resident since 1957

VILLAGE OF MICHIANA
PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Sign-In Sheet

2026 Village of Michiana Master Plan — Public Hearing

Date: Aug 8, 2024 Location: Michiana Village Hall Time: 10 EST

Please print clearly. Sign-in is voluntary and not required to speak or attend, but helps the Commission keep an accurate record of the hearing for the official minutes.

#	Name (please print)	Mailing Address	Email or Phone (optional)	Wish to Speak? (circle)
✓	Liz Cutler	3773 LSD, Michiana 08540 79 Hun Rd. Princeton, NJ	lcutler6@gmail.com	Yes / No
✓	Joann Fisher	3898 Michiana Drive New Buffalo	nyfishers@yahoo.com	Yes / No
3	Jed Fisher	3898 Michiana Drive		Yes / No
4	T J			Yes / No
5	Ron Rossetto	4347 Pouchette Dr	ronrossetto@gmail.com	Yes / No
6	Kathleen Hagan	Morrison + 1		Yes / No
7	CRAG PIERSON	917 LINE RIDGE DR	PIERSONCRM@GMAIL.COM	Yes / No
8	SCOTT MAXARY	" "		Yes / No
9	BRUCE HIRSH	4075 BIRCHMOIST	BRUCEHIRSH@GMAIL.COM	Yes / No ✓
10	ALBERT ARCEL	4095 HILLSID		Yes / No
11	Sally McDonald			Yes / No
12	Kim Habel	3845 Pouchette Dr		Yes / No
13	Linka B. Bawls			Yes / No
14	PAM & BILL	Schutt		Yes / No
15	Bridget Gannon	49 Pocantico Trl.		Yes / No ✓
16	K.C. Ginter			Yes / No
17	ED SHAY			Yes / No
18	LISA ZIRPOLO	3795		Yes / No ✓
19	Lori Cole	3896		Yes / No

#	Name (please print)	Mailing Address	Email or Phone (optional)	Wish to Speak? (circle)
20	JURATE LANDWESTER			☒ Yes / No ✓
21	CLERK LANDWESTER			☒ Yes / No ✓
22	Prmela Schutt			☒ Yes / No ✓
23	Rockelle Mayfield			☒ Yes / No ✓
24	Amoura Coder			☒ Yes / No ✓
25	DOUG FINEE			Yes / ☒ No
26	NANCY THIL			Yes / ☒ No
27	Karen Hardy			☒ Yes / No
28	Marcia Kanarek			Yes / No
29	Gandy Jourdán			Yes / No
30	Alan Jourdán			Yes / No

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