

PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting – June 16th, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Kerby called the Paw Paw Township Planning Commission meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT: Chairman Kip Kerby, Chad Learned, Phillip Arbanas, Jim DeGroff, Phil Hover, Chuck Felcyn, Adam Garland

ABSENT: NA

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed meeting agenda.

- Learned offered a motion to approve the agenda as presented in the packet.
- Arbanas supported the motion.
- Chairman Kerby called for the vote, and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Planning Commission reviewed the draft minutes from May 19th, 2026.

- Garland offered a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 19th, 2026.
- Felcyn supported the motion.
- Chairman Kerby called for the vote, and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

6. BUSINESS

Consideration of a Special Land Use and Site Plan Approval Extension. Hurel Johnson, of SolAmerica Energy, LLC, requests approval on behalf of Paw Paw Affordable Solar, LLC, for an extension of special land use and site plan approval. This project is proposed on property owned by the Village of Paw Paw along Paw Paw Road (80-14-023-002-00 & 80-14-023-003-00).

Mr. Hurel Johnson, representing SolAmerica gave a presentation on the need for an extension to the site plan and special land use, stated that the Paw Paw Village Solar Project was originally supported through a federal financial assistance package that is no longer available, creating additional financial challenges for the project. He explained that they are currently working with the USDA and evaluating cost reductions to improve the project's financial feasibility. Mr. Johnson further noted that their team continues to work on the project, including permitting and financing efforts.

The Planning Commission discussed the project's status and considered whether additional public input was necessary, Chairmen Kerby did open the floor to the public. A few members of the public commented on the project and were opposed, one of neighboring land owners was present and approved of the project.

DeGroff offered a motion to DENY the extension requests.

- Arbanas supported the motion.
- Chairman Kerby called for the vote, and the motion did not pass (3-4)

Support for the motion: Degroff, Arbanas, and Felcyn

Nay: Kerby, Garland, Hover, Learned

Garland offered a motion to Approve the extension requests, with all the conditions presented in the packet.

- Learned supported the motion.
- Chairman Kerby called for the vote, and the motion passed (5-2)

Support for the motion: Kerby, Garland, Hover, Learned, Felcyn

Nay: Degroff, Arbanas

7. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

DeGroff suggested we immediately(at our next meeting) take up the zoning ordinance and zoning map changes discussed during our master plan review in order to facilitate timely implementation of priorities. Learned stated he was in full support.

Degroff updated the commission that a bus tour is not supported by the township board.

Hover suggested that we allow public comment on hearing items that do not have a public hearing attached to them prior to the commission taking up the matter on our agendas.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 7:30 pm.

- Learned offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.
- Chairman Kerby supported the motion and adjourned the meeting.

Prepared by: Chadwick Learned, June 17th, 2026

Approved: August 18, 2026