

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, PLANNING  
COMMISSION, AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
APPROVED JOINT BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF February 6th, 2025**

**A. ROLL CALL**

Highland DDA Board Members present: Andy West, Taylor DeHaan, Jennifer Frederick, Cassie Blascyk, Supervisor Hamill, Chris Hamill, Micheal Zeolla and Roscoe Smith

Members Absent: Michael Zurek, Dale Feigley

Staff Present: Melissa Dashevich, Executive Director

Supervisor Hamill called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM

**B. HIGHLAND DDA - HIGHLAND STATION UPDATE MASTER PLAN - DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Dashevich gave a summary presentation to the boards and the public regarding what the highland DDA is and what projects it has accomplished in the last year as well as introduced the upcoming Highland Station boardwalk project.

**C. HIGHLAND DDA - HIGHLAND STATION BOARDWALK - DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Blascyk presented the Highland DDA's current plans for the Highland Station Boardwalk and its budget. She also went over the history of the project and its importance to the community. She answered a number of questions regarding the new boardwalk ADA compliance and what will and will not be allowed to cross the boardwalk.

**D. PLANNING COMMISSION - ZONING TOPICS - DISCUSSION**

Kevin Curtis, Chairperson of the Planning Commission, presented on the Master Plan that the planning commission has been working on for the past few years.

Grant Charlick, Township Board Liaison, also presented ordinance updates made over the past year by the Planning Commission. This included a short-term rental ordinance. They are also currently working on an ordinance for wedding barns and event venues and an ordinance for commercial and recreational vehicles. The board is also looking to make a more specific ordinance for food trucks.

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Mr. Charlick also asked the Highland Zoning Board of Appeals to put together a list of any current recurring issues they are having brought forward that may need to be updated with suggested changes.

**E. PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS - PARKS, PATHWAYS, ETC. - DISCUSSION**

Supervisor Hamill presented on recent updates to Highland's parks including the replacement of the out of commission tennis courts in Duck Lake Pines Park with pickleBall courts which has been very popular with the public. He also shared upcoming plans to change the currently unsafe hockey rink in the same park so that it will be safe for the public to use for remote controlled vehicles while the township decides what to do next with the space. In addition a cell tower has gone up in Duck Lake Pines Park that will produce revenue to help fund maintenance moving forward and prevent burdening tax payers.

He went on to inform the boards that he will be stepping down as the head of maintenance and they are looking to hire someone for the full time position of maintenance supervisor.

Supervisor Hamill shared that the current train station that is located at the corner of M59 and Milford Road will be reproduced in veterans park by Sheetz. The flag poles in veterans park will also be moved to the southeast corner to be more prominent while also keeping the center of the park free for events.

The Township intends to put pathways throughout the Hickory Ridge Pines Park that was purchased from Highland Tree Farm.

He plans for the playground by the library to be finished this year. Some safety changes will also be added to the walking paths behind the library where walking can be dangerous.

Steeple hall has been undergoing a lot of historic preservation last year, such as paint, reservation and replacement of part of the roof. This year it is planned to do tuck pointing on the stone foundation as well as window restoration and reglazing.

**F. VISUAL PRESENTATION OF M59 LUMBERYARD**

Supervisor Hamill, in light of recent changes to the lumberyard location, put together a short presentation regarding what was in the 2006 Highland DDA master plan at that location, what the land looked like in the 90s and what it looks like today. He also showed a representation of what it will look like when the new Sheetz facility is built.

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**G. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Jim Lloyd asked to make a comment regarding the layout of the proposed Sheetz gas station. He stated that he hopes that it turns out to be as nice as Alex's Market and that the presented layout looks like it will lend itself very nicely as a restaurant that sells gas in a world that is going to use less gas every year.

He also asked if the restaurant itself will be 24/7 to which the answer was yes.

**H. MEETING ADJOURN**

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:29 pm. - TD

APPROVED