

Caledonia Township Planning Commission
Draft Regular Meeting Minutes
August 10th, 2026
Caledonia Township Hall, 6461 Gillard Rd., Spruce, MI 48762

Call to Order:

The Meeting was called to order by Dan LeClair

Pledge of Allegiance:

Completed

Roll Call:

Sobeck - present, Halazon - present, LeClair - present, LaLonde - present, MacKinnon - present

Approval of the Agenda:

Sobeck made a motion to approve the agenda, with an amendment to add 1/2 hour of discussion at the end of the meeting to accommodate public concerns.. Seconded by Halazon. All in favor, motion passed with amendment.

Approval of Minutes July 13, 2026:

Motion by Sobeck made a motion to approve minutes with correction under board of trustees.; LaLonde seconded. Motion passed.

Written Correspondence:

An e-mail was received.

Public Comment:

Due to the large number of attendees, public comment was deferred to the last half hour of the meeting.. Addressed below.

Board of Trustees Report:

Plans for short term rentals to be reviewed by the Township Board Members then forwarded to the Township attorney. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 8-11-26.

ZBA Report:

None

Zoning Administrator Report:

None

Tri-Township Report: The Tri Township PC met in July. There was discussion of Huron Pines Forest Report and continuing discussion of Ordinance updates.

New Business:

The process of Ordinance review was discussed. It was noted that ongoing work has been done in areas of Road Side Stands, Short Term Rentals and Solar and Battery Storage. We are now ready for the scheduling of a public hearing on the updated Ordinance. It was proposed that notice be placed in the local newspaper, and a subsequent Public Hearing be set for August 31st.

Sobeck made a motion to set the public hearing for August 31st at 7 pm, and cancel the next regularly scheduled PC meeting of September 14th. LaLonde seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Public Meeting will be scheduled for August 31, 2026 at 7pm, at the Caledonia Township Hall.

Old Business:

None

Public Comments, as added to Agenda:

There were 37 people who signed in as guests of the meeting.

Multiple concerns were voiced in regards to possible Solar Farms in Caledonia (As well as other) Township. Concerns included the possible negative effects of Solar Farms on the general character of the Township and its preservation. There were concerns voiced about the environmental impact, on both the land and wildlife in the area. There were voiced concerns about diminishing property values surrounding the farms and the visual and possible noise blight. Concerns were raised about who would take ultimate responsibility if these ventures failed for some reason. It was pointed out that decisions made in the present lock the Township and its public into decades of obligation. There was general lack of trust reported as regards official assurances and representations about promises and guarantees offered to the public.

At this meeting, there were a minority of voices in favor of allowing solar to be explored as an option for the Township. Stated here was the belief that the decision to allow solar on their farms should ultimately rest in the discretion of the landowner.

There was some discussion of the proposed guidelines included in the new Ordinance as regards Solar, Battery and Data Centers.

A few of the attendees pointed out that, despite State or Federal decision making, the Township, and especially, the PC board does hold authority to limit or allow the establishment of Solar Farms in the Township.

Commissioner's Comments:

The commissioner voiced appreciation to the community both in Caledonia Township and neighboring areas for their attendance and opinions tonight. He acknowledged there is no

simple and unanimous solution at this time. The commissioner urged open and respectful discussion as we work to come to an agreement about this sensitive and crucial matter.

Adjourn:

Sobek made a motion to adjourn. LaLonde seconded. All in favor motion passed
Meeting adjourned at: 8:11 pm.

Next Meetings:

Respectfully submitted by Barb Halazon

Date: 8-24-26