

Austinburg Township

Zoning Commission

June 3, 2026

Members:

Laurie Robishaw, Chair
David Gottwig, Vice-Chair
Diego Moreno
Clare Polak
Lisa Vicente

Teresa Gottwig, Alternate
Shara Parkomaki, Alternate (absent)

Also Present:

Byron Dutton, Trustee Liaison
Sarah Frank, Zoning Secretary
Rob LaPuh, Zoning Administrator

Chair opened the meeting at 6:05pm. Chair requested roll call attendance:

Laurie Robishaw - Present

Clare Polak - Present

Shara Parkomaki - Not Present

David Gottwig - Present

Lisa Vicente - Present

Teresa Gottwig - Present

Diego Moreno - Present

Clare motioned to approve 5/6/26 meeting minutes; Lisa seconded. Roll call vote:

Laurie - Aye

Clare - Aye

Shara - Not Present

David - Aye

Lisa - Aye

Teresa - Abstain

Diego - Aye

Minutes approved.

Zoning Administrator reported on permits approved for a new house on Route 45, as well as an accessory structure. No permit has been issued yet but the former Mr. C's is continuing plans to install a convenience gas station.

Secretary reported on updates to the Approved Amendment Procedural Checklist for the recent amendment on Multi-Unit Retail.

Trustee Liaison requested the recommendations of Commission and Zoning Administrator to send back to County Commissioners regarding banning types of wind and solar energy. Vice-Chair reported on his attendance at County Commissioners' wind and solar energy planning meeting on 6/1/26 and referred to his 6/2/26 email to Commission. Members stated whether they are for and against and any additional comments: David stated AGAINST, despite the money being good, with long-term concerns for land and water tables, as well as the equipment not being recyclable or replaceable, putting the burden on the property owner for clean-up. Lisa and Teresa stated AGAINST. Diego stated AGAINST; he sees that the burden of proof should be on the energy systems and would be interested in seeing both arguments more in depth. Clare stated AGAINST, citing the zoning text's intent to beautify and attend to the land, as well as citing The Station's history as a former gas station that sat empty for so long; many people were interested in investing in the community but the current owners happened to get a state grant for clean-up. Zoning Administrator stated AGAINST since there is no benefit to the township i.e. gas tax or bnb tax. Laurie stated she felt like a MAYBE due to her feelings on landowners' rights (and wished there was more education before contracts are signed) mixed with her environmental concerns. She leans toward AGAINST because any long-term benefits outweigh one individual landowner's objections.

David motioned to recommend to the Township Trustees a ban or a no resolution for an "economically significant wind farm" (5 Megawatts (MW) - 49 MW), "a large wind farm" (more than 50 MW) or "a large solar facility" (more than 50 MW); Clare seconded. Roll call vote:

Laurie - Aye

Clare - Aye

Shara - Not Present

David - Aye

Lisa - Aye

Teresa - Abstain

Diego - Aye

Minutes approved.

Chair and Commission reviewed and edited her drafted "June Update Solar Panels Commercial".

David motioned to ban in the drafted document less than 50 MW utility grid or small solar farm for the use of supplying energy to the grid; Clare seconded. After discussion, roll call vote:

Laurie - Aye

Clare - Aye

Shara - Not Present

David - Aye

Lisa - Aye

Teresa - Abstain

Diego - Aye

Motion approved.

Chair requested Section 530 to review at the next regularly-scheduled meeting for updating. Chair introduced and reviewed her 6/3/26 drafted "Data Center Letter" requesting a 12-month moratorium on data centers from Township Trustees, stating that this can give the Commission time to review the issue and sends the message to the community that it is being addressed.

David motioned to approve the 12-month moratorium letter to be sent to Trustees; Diego seconded. Roll call vote:

Laurie - Aye

Clare - Aye

Shara - Not Present

David - Aye

Lisa - Aye

Teresa - Abstain

Diego - Aye

Motion approved.

David motioned to adjourn the meeting; Clare seconded. Roll call vote:

Laurie - Aye

Clare - Aye

Shara - Not Present

David - Aye

Lisa - Aye

Teresa - Abstain

Diego - Aye

Meeting adjourned 7:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Frank

Sarah Frank, Secretary