

**Pierson Township Planning Commission
21156 W. Cannonsville Rd.
Pierson, MI 49339**

**Meeting Minutes
Feb. 23, 2023 at 7:00PM**

- A) Call to order: 7:00PM
- B) Pledge of allegiance
- C) Roll Call present: Buyze, Dunneback, Maioho, Smith, Tibbe. Also present: Lance Gates and Kevin Yeomans.
- D) Minutes from the January 25, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.
- E) Public comment: None
- F) Meeting agenda: A motion was made and passed unanimously to approve the meeting agenda.
- G) New Business: None
- H) Ongoing Business: The solar ordinance subcommittee (Bergman, Maioho, Lecceadone) met via zoom with Lance Gates and Kevin Yeomans on Feb. 20 to create a framework including specific guidelines for the topics which were brought up and discussed at the last PC meeting. It was determined that the existing ordinances for residential districts will remain as is, with the same setback rules for free standing solar panels as there are for accessory buildings. The framework for the new ordinance will cover accessory and principal solar energy use in commercial/industrial and agricultural districts. Large and small accessory ground mounted solar systems will be differentiated based on the percentage of lot coverage. Accessory ground mounted solar panels on agricultural land for use in farming will be permitted. Co-location of ground mounted solar systems will be encouraged between adjacent commercial/industrial and agricultural properties. Principal use solar systems (used for commercial power generation into the grid) will require special land use permits, visual screening/greenbelts, and a decommissioning plan which will includes a bond and review every three years. The subcommittee will present a completed draft of the proposed solar ordinance to the planning commission before its next meeting in March. If the draft is agreed upon, a public hearing will be scheduled during the April PC meeting, so the ordinance can be passed by May.
- I) Other items: The PC was made aware that the township Master Plan will be up for review/revision in 2025. This occurs every 5 years. The Master Plan is available for review on the Pierson township website.
- J) Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.