Elk Rapids Township Planning Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes – September 14thth, 2026 – First Draft

The meeting of the Elk Rapids Township Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson Zach Amos at 11:33 AM at the Government Center, 315 Bridge Street, Elk Rapids, MI 49629.

Roll Call/Present: Tom Crandall, David Krill, Jim Lundy, Zach Amos, Matt Soper
(Quorum Established)

Absent: Aubyn Amos-Hitchcock and Gary Peppler

Also Present: Jonathan Scheel (Township Zoning and Planning Administrator)

Audience: Heidi Shaffer

Approval of Agenda: approved as presented.

Motion: **Soper/Lundy** **All in Favor** **Motion Carried.**

Approval of Minutes: approve the Monday February 9th, 2026 Meeting Minutes.
Motion: Lundy/ Krill **All in Favor** **Motion Carried.**

Public Comments: None

Preliminary Review of 2.11B Site Plan Approval: 1143 Hanel Rd

Heidi Shaffer from Voice Environmental Group, LLC. Spoke on behalf of homeowners. Requesting 3 points:

1. Reduce the Ice Berm from 6 ft to 1 ft
2. Remove cedar tree in neighboring property (with said neighbor's permission)
3. Planting vegetation

Board Discussion: Interested in root depths of replacement plants, Zoning/ Planning Administrator states the application reflects the characteristics of the property. No other questions or comments.

Motion to Approve with the Administrator receiving written notice from neighbor for cedar tree removal: Soper/ Krill

Roll Call Vote:

T. Crandall	**Aye**
D. Krill	**Aye**
J. Lundy	**Aye**
Z. Amos	**Aye**
M. Soper	**Aye**

5 Voting Yes – 0 Voting No

(G. Peppler and A. Amos-Hitchcock Absent). **Motion Carried.**

Conclusion:

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Zoning Administrators Report: Issued 5 zoning permits, property line adjustment for 05-06-01-021-00/ 05-06-010-006-01 along Cairn Hwy. Blight Issues on Townline Road is a work in progress on track for deadlines given. Collaborating with owners of 2 parcels that removed trees in the 25' waterfront setback. The Planning Commission will be reviewing a property that has a shoreline restoration permit from EGLE for work done in the 25-foot waterfront setback.

Township Attorney Report: Not present.

New Business: Data Center Ordinance Review- Administrator will be providing further information on data centers to educate planning board while Township determines a data center ordinance.

Unfinished Business: Mark Poniatoski Townline Storage Units- asked Township Board for an extended deadline to work on securing grant, that deadline is approaching.
Gurwinder Malvia proposed gas station application deadline due- waiting for grant- may ask Township Board for extension.

Members Comments: Emile Sabty has spent the last 28 years serving Elk Rapids within the Planning and Zoning administration. He committed over 40 years of his life to Planning and Zoning throughout the state. Emile is thankful for the time and efforts of everyone coming together in the community. He believes the decisions were progressive and was always pleased with the improvements to the community. He was integral to the organization of the meeting minutes for zoning and planning starting in 1979 all the way through today. Thank you for your service, Emile.

Adjourn: **Motion to Adjourn:**
Motion: Lundy/ Crandall **12:13pm**

(An audio file of this Planning Commission Meeting is available on the Township Website)

(Minutes as of 09/14/26 – 2:47 PM)

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