Portland Township
Ionia County, MI
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The Portland Township Planning Commission met on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Portland Township Hall for its quarterly meeting.

Chairman Ross Schneider called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Planning Commission members present included: Ross Schneider, Mark Simon, Kevin DiPiazza, Andrew Huhn and Julie Krzeminski. Tony Dixon and Mike Kolp were not present.

Motion made to approve the June 3, 2026 Planning Commission minutes by Mark Simon, seconded by Andrew Huhn and carried.

One change to the agenda was made to New Business, which was adding the public hearing for proposed zoning ordinance amendment pertaining to cryptocurrency data mining facilities and data centers.

There were no residents or public in attendance or public comment made.

Old Business:

The planning commission reviewed the draft zoning ordinance amendment using feedback from previous planning commission meetings that added specific zoning ordinance language pertaining to cryptocurrency data mining facilities and data centers. This included ordinances specifically towards operating decibel levels, power grid responsibility fire safety responsibility, water usage/reclamation requirements, land usage/maintenance, and planning & operations regulatory reporting requirements. Planning Commission members in attendance agreed that the overall language in the draft ordinance amendment was sufficient and addressed previous concerns and points of interest addressed in previous meetings. There were only a few small formatting errors that were identified that needed correction.

One additional area of consideration regarding the amendment was brought up by township zoning administrator Nic Schneider regarding vibrations and was something that he noted the Michigan Township Association had recently addressed but was not previously discussed in prior township planning commission meetings. It was agreed that including proposed ordinance language regarding vibrations as it pertains to cryptocurrency data mining facilities and data centers could be reviewed and addressed in future meetings so as not to further hold up the current proposed ordinance amendment.

Language approval for recommended adoption of zoning ordinance amendment regarding cryptocurrency data mining facilities and data centers for township board review motion made by Mark Simon, seconded by Julie Krzeminski and carried.

New Business:

Planning commission members Tony Dixon and Andrew Huhn's planning commission terms will expire November 2026. Andrew Huhn expressed his intention to seek reappointment and voted on by the township board in a future meeting. Tony Dixon will need to relay his intention to the township board due to his absence.

R-1 rear setback requirements as they are presently in the zoning ordinance are 35 feet off the rear lot line. Nic Schneider inquired of the board and discussion followed whether that 35 foot distance was still adequate or should be shortened. This was brought up for discussion due to a recent variance request and several of the newer sub-division development lot sizes where smaller lot sizes may face reasonable difficulty in meeting the 35 foot setback requirement. After discussion it was generally agreed on by the planning commission members present that current setback requirements are sufficient, and there are so few variance requests for setback waivers that amending the current setback distance is not necessary at this time.

Public Comment: Regarding the public hearing portion of the meeting as it pertained to cryptocurrency data mining facilities and data centers, there were no residents or members of the public present for comment.

Planning Commission Member Comments: None

Future Meetings: December 2, 2026

Motion to adjourn at 7:27 PM made by Kevin DiPiazza, seconded by Mark Simon and carried.

Kevin DiPiazza
Portland Township Planning Commission Secretary