



Dexter Township
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Strategic Planning Session – Meeting Results
August 28, 2023
6:00 PM

This meeting was a workshop where no decisions were made. All attendees participated equally.

6:00-6:15: Welcome and Introductions

18 attendees:

Mark Teicher, Chair, Farmland & Open Space Preservation Board
Chandra Hurd, member, Planning Commission
Lonnie Scott, Member, Board of Trustees
Maris Metz, Treasurer, Board of Trustees
Laura Sanders, Member, Board of Trustees
Brook Stevens, Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals
Janis Miller, Recording Secretary
Lois Beerbaum, Member, Local Roads Committee, Plastic Film Volunteer
Karen Nolte, Member, Board of Trustees
Barry Lonik, Consultant, Farmland & Open Space Preservation Board
Alicia Abbott, member, Planning Commission
Sam Edwards, Office Manager
Doug Armstrong, Chief, DAFD
Gretchen Driskell, Member, Board of Trustees
Marty Straub, Chair, Planning Commission
Christy Maier, Chair, Local Roads Committee; Member, Planning Commission
Michelle Stamboulellis, Clerk, Board of Trustees
Karen Sikkenga, Supervisor, Board of Trustees

Attendees shared their names, relationship to Dexter Township, and one fun fact about themselves.

6:15-6:30: Refresher of budget and mandated/permissive functions of a general law Township

Attendees reviewed the summary chart describing mandated and permissive functions of a general law township, discussed allowable and disallowed activities, and discussed Dexter Township's approved fund balances policy.

6:30-6:45: SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities Threats

Attendees reviewed the approved 2021 SWOT analysis and rated the components for their relevancy. The group recommended the BOT amend the SWOT analysis as follows:

- Remove "Entrepreneurial" from "Strengths"
- Remove "Government/Organizational Legal Restraints" from "Weaknesses"
- Under "Opportunities," move "Advance Planning for Land Use" to "Strengths"
- Under "Opportunities," broaden the language of "Value Added Ag Center" to encompass commercial activity that meets Dexter Township residents' needs

- Several new “Opportunities” were identified (see table below)
- Under “Threats,” “Extreme Weather” was identified as a new threat

Detailed results are noted in the following table:

	External		Internal		Total	
	Keep	Remove	Keep	Remove	Keep	Remove
Strengths						
Open Space/Lakes/Nature	8		10		18	0
Financially Stable	7		7	1	14	1
Entrepreneurial		7	2	6	2	13
Weaknesses						
Internal/External Communication	8		9		17	0
Community Participation	6		9		15	0
Government/Organizational Legal Restraints	1	5		10	1	15
Opportunities						
Preservation	6		9		15	0
Advance Planning for Land Use	8		7	1	15	1
Fix Infrastructure	6		9		15	0
Value-Added Ag Center	4	4	5	2	9	6
Add:						
Commercial Activity to Meet Basic Needs						
Environmental Stewardship						
PC Develops a Sense of Mission						
Threats						
Divisiveness	3	2	8		11	2
Pollution/Environmental/Water	6		9		15	0
Loss of What Makes Us Special	3		8		11	0
Misinformation/Social Media	5	2	6	2	11	4
Add:						
Extreme Weather						

6:45-7:15: Strategic Plan gap analysis

Participants celebrated completed items from the Strategic Plan, and rated items that are still in process or not yet started as “Important” or “Not Important.” Participants recommended the BOT amend the Strategic Plan goals as follows:

- Under “Community Enrichment,” two goals were identified as lower priority: “Public Art” and “Funding Community Mental Health.” An “Ag Center” had mixed results, with 6 “Not Important” ratings and 7 “Important” ratings
- Additional goals were suggested under three of the four categories, as detailed in the following table.

	External		Internal		Total	
	Not Imp	Important	Not Imp	Important	Not Imp	Important
Good Government						
Policies		4		7	0	11
Fiscal responsibility		5		6	0	11
Broadband/cell service	1	5		8	1	13
Single Hauler		4	2	6	2	10
Recycling		1		4	0	5
Local roads		2			0	2
Affiliate org quality control		3		7	0	10
Township board training		5	1	6	1	11
Add:						
Move DPZ back to staff position						
Emergency Preparedness						
Plan for Future Capital Needs						
Better communications re cell service						
Environmental Stewardship (add "Resiliency")						
Natural areas management practice & education	2	5	2	6	4	11
Preservation of land & waterways		7		9	0	16
Protect & improve water quality		7		9	0	16
Reduce environmental impact of township ops		5		9	0	14
Add:						
Purchase farms for sale or owned by developers, conserve & sell to young farmers						
Community Enrichment						
Public Art	5		5	3	10	3
Parks & trails		7		8	0	15
Ag Center	3	2	3	5	6	7
Youth mental health	4	1	5	3	9	4
Greater use of township facilities		6		7	0	13
Communication						
External communications		2		2	0	0
Internal communications		1		1	0	0
Add:						
Pass along DTE information						

Separate from this prioritization exercise, participants brainstormed funding ideas, as follows:

- Cell tower
- Land acquisition for cell tower
- Dry hydrants \$5-\$20K ea; need 3-4
- Sewer upgrades
- Connect people to sewer
- Local roads - finish what we started
- Buy-protect-sell
- Provide microgrants to residents for environmental improvements

- Nonmotorized trail systems
- Transportation fixes
- Traffic control
- Emergency preparedness
- Community help team
- Septic inspection support for LIP or anyone
- Create a Capital Improvement Plan

7:15-7:45: Brainstorm public process for setting strategic priorities

The group brainstormed ideas for engaging Dexter Township residents in helping set priorities, as follows:

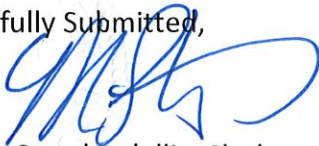
- Conduct a community survey - not in the tax bill
- Give a reward for answering the survey
- Work with neighborhood associations and churches to increase participation
- Work with Dexter High School civics class as ambassadors
- Publicize the survey with a beautiful flier sent separately
- Use a QR code to access an on-line survey
- Attend community events to hear from the public
- Create an email group dedicated to this topic
- Attend HOAs meetings
- Create a list of HOA contacts
- Do a dog & pony show at HOAs
- Use authorities - MLWA, DAFD, Wellness Center - to distribute information
- Produce the newsletter every two months
- Go door to door with the survey

7:45-8:00: Wrap-Up

Participants agreed that the Board of Trustees should come to the community with a limited list of projects for funding. Members of the Board of Trustees, all of whom were present, asked the Supervisor to recommend the top five priority items for funding. Attendees generally suggested a longer list (up to eight items) to allow the board to remove items it deems are lower priority. Participants generally stated that infrastructure is the highest priority for many, including better cell reception.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Stambouellis, Clerk
Dexter Township

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, MICHELLE STAMBOULELLIS, THE DULY QUALIFIED CLERK FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF DEXTER, WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING IS A TRUE AND COMPLETE COPY OF CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS TAKEN BY THE DEXTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT A REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON THE 28TH DAY OF AUGUST AND THAT THE FORGOING MINUTES ARE THE APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON THE 28TH, DAY OF AUGUST 2023.

MICHELLE STAMBOULELLIS, CLERK, DEXTER TOWNSHIP

