

**Helena Township Planning Commission Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 18, 2025 @ 11:00am**  
**8751 Helena Road, Alden, Michigan 49612**

Call to Order: Chair Jim Gurr called the meeting to order at 11:00am when the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present – F. VandenBerg, J. Gurr, M. Robinson and G. Schafer.

Township Officials Present: Oryana Leffew, Butch Peeples and Bob Logee.

Approval of Agenda: G. Schafer motioned to approve agenda and M. Robinson seconded. Motion approved.

Conflict of Interest: No conflicts.

Communications:

- Sixteen letters were sent to property owners within three hundred (300) feet of the said property. No specific questions or comments were received.

Public Comments:

- Vernon Crandall inquired about the location of the private cemetery.
- John Williams inquired about landscaping; Devin Caudros indicated that a fenced garden would be added to this area.

Public Hearing: Private Cemetery

- At 11:20am the meeting was temporarily closed to a public hearing on the private cemetery.
- Devin responded to inquiries.
- Meeting is closed for Finding of Fact.
  - The cemetery must be formally recorded to establish permanent protection of the site.
  - The presence of human remains is considered a material fact that must be disclosed in any real estate transaction.
- Commission Action of Private Cemetery: G. Schafer motioned and M. Robinson seconded a call to vote.
  - The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.
  - This will be presented to the Helena Township Board on December 11th, and Antrim County Planning Commission in January 2026.
- The commission meeting began again at 11:25am.

Announcements:

- The next Helena Township Planning Commission meeting is Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Adjourn: G. Schafer motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:27am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fay M. VandenBerg, Helena Township Planning Commission and Zoning Secretary