

## **News from Avon Township**

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Are you interested in serving the community? Do you want to become involved in grassroots government? Are you available on the last Wednesday evening of the month? If so, you're in luck. Avon Township has an opening on the Planning Commission (PC) that would be perfect for you.

The PC is comprised of five members who are appointed by the Avon Township Supervisors to three-year terms. Members are evaluated annually, and may be reappointed for additional terms.

The role of the PC is to provide recommendations to the Township Supervisors, our elected officials who make all decisions for the Township. Specific responsibilities of the PC include reviewing plats and driveway permits, holding public hearings, and completing any other tasks assigned by the Supervisors.

Plats are maps showing proposed subdivisions of property. The PC reviews these maps and then recommends to the Supervisors whether or not it should be approved. Similarly, the PC reviews driveway permits which are required if a resident plans to widen or change his/her driveway.

If a resident requests a variance, zoning change or other permits, the PC holds public hearings to gather feedback from neighbors and others. Most recently, the PC held a variance hearing for a resident who wanted to build a garage closer to the road than is currently permitted. This hearing was particularly interesting because the addition would reduce their neighbors' view of a lake.

In addition, the PC has discussed creating an ordinance banning excessive vehicles being stored on property, and debated whether to allow bicycle races on Township roads and whether or not to have the County issue Conditional Use and Interim Use Permits.

Serving on the PC provides a glimpse into how the Township is run and gives residents a voice in the decision-making process. The best part is that members receive a small stipend for their time.

If you want to be considered for an opening on the Avon Township Planning Commission, complete an application (available at our website: [avontownship.org/Permits/Forms](http://avontownship.org/Permits/Forms)) and then return it to me at the Avon Township Hall (16881 Queens Road, Avon, MN 56310). The Supervisors will review the applications and select a person to fill the current opening.

I hope to see you at the next PC meeting.