

The Knox County Regional Planning Commission
117 East High Street, Suite 221
Mount Vernon, OH 43050
Phone—740-393-6718 Fax—740-393-6705
knoxplanning@co.knox.oh.us

March 20, 2025

The regular meeting of the Knox County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) was held on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in the Memorial Building, 112-114 E. High St., Mount Vernon.

Chairman, Roger Yaman called the meeting to order. Darrel Severns, Secretary for the Commission, called the roll.

The following voting representatives were present:

James DeChant	Berlin Township	Dave Marietta	Monroe Township
Steve Bratton	Brown Township	Tim Smith	Morris Township
Joe Fritz	Brown Township	Brian Frazier	Morris Township
Christa Ciotola	Butler Township	Curt Bechtel	Pike Township
Roger Yarman	College Township	Jim Hughes	Pleasant Township
John Norris*	Harrison Township	Ashton Walls	Wayne Township
Greg Lawson	Howard Township	Ray Brewer	Fredericktown
Scott Dugan	Jackson Township	Leeman Kessler	Gambier
Monica Severns	Jefferson Township	Robert Collins	Martinsburg
Joe Spurgeon*	Liberty Township	Barry Lester	Commissioner
Kris Caldwell	Milford Township		

Others present:

Darrel Severns	Knox RPC	Ed O'Connell*	College Township
Rob Clendening	KSWCD	Brayden Freeman*	Pike Township
Cheryl Splain	Knox Pages	Landon Magers	KPH
Andy Collins*	Butler Township		

**Alternate*

A quorum was present with 21 voting representatives.

Approval of Minutes – Roger Yarman

Mr. Bechtel moved to approve the February 2025 minutes. Ms. Severns seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Roger Yarman

Mr. Yarman presented the Financial Report for February 2025. The expenses were \$2,705.63. Income for the month was \$3,699.25. The month began with \$86,523.48 and ended with \$87,517.10.

Mr. Kessler moved to approve the February 2025 financial report as presented. Mr. Dugan seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Old Business

Nominating Committee – Roger Yarman

Slate of officers; Roger Yarman, College Township to stay as Chairman; Steve Bratton, Brown Township for Vice Chair, and Marta Hill, Liberty Township for Treasurer. Steve Bratton for Land Use Chair (this office is elected but not part of the Executive Committee).

Mr. Hughes moved to approve the 2025 Slate of Officers as presented. Mr. Bechtel seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

New Business

Executive Committee Report – Roger Yarman and Darrel Severns

The committee met on the 12th of March. We discussed various issues at the time. The Commissioners had decided to forgo contributions to RPC last year. Since then, they have given us back our normal previous allocation to RPC and appreciate their support. The committee discussed a quote from Modern Office Methods to replace the current copier as the lease expires in June of this year. We want to thank the Commissioners for their help with our budget. We are trying to get at least one more quote on it but haven't been successful yet. Most of the machines in this building are leased and serviced through Modern Office Methods Company, so they are in the building all the time. This is one of the better selling points of it. The copier that we are looking at is a color copier. The only color machine we have in the office is a printer in Mr. Severns' office and the largest map we can do is legal sized, 8.5" x 14". If we need a bigger one, we go downstairs to the Map Office. It's nice to have a machine where you can do it in color and do it faster. On the old machine, the Comprehensive Plan, if we need an extra copy of it, it takes almost an hour to print out one complete booklet. Plus, it is expensive. Each color cartridge in the old machine costs around \$180 and there are four (4) of them. The monthly cost from Modern Office Methods is \$99.90. This cost is for lease, maintenance, and support. The cost for color is only for when we use it. The lease is for 60 months.

Mr. Dugan moved to approve the lease for the new color copier from Modern Office Methods. Ms. Ciotola seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report —Darrel Severns

Membership in the RPC this year is we have all townships except for Clinton, the Village of Centerburg and the City of Mount Vernon did not rejoin. Amber Keener and the rest of the Mount Vernon people will be removed. Their positions will be voted on tonight. Office holders are in until they are replaced. We had people in the big office down here, on this floor asking about subdivision regulations getting revised. Mr. Severns stated he had been after Wendy Moeller for quite some time, and she was able to free up some time. Mr. Keaton and Mr. Severns spent almost an hour yesterday with her discussing what we were looking for in that and she is in the process of working up a quote for what she would charge us to go through it, organize and get rid of things we don't need anymore and beef up things that we do need. He's looking forward to seeing a quote from her. Several townships in here have used her for their zoning resolution updates. We have all seen them and they have been fairly impressive as far as the organization she puts into it, formatting, and things like that. We will see what her quote is and if we need to look around some more. Just from what he has seen as to the reactions to the finished zoning resolutions that she has done, everyone has been pretty happy with it. It is in the process. Mr. Lester stated that when we get the quote from her to take it to the Board of Commissioners and we will see if we can contribute funds to help with the cost. The time frame is all very vague, and she didn't think it would cost that much and that it shouldn't take that long. Mr. Severns stated that he and Mr. Keaton are looking at it all the time and when you are in it at all the time, you see things. Getting somebody else's eyes on it, other ideas and their experiences looking at it, it will be very helpful. This will all go through the Land Use Committee process to the RPC. It will be the same process as what we are doing with the Comprehensive Plan. Once the RPC is happy with it, there will be interactions with Commissioners to make sure they are onboard with what's going forward. Once we are done with it, we will refer it on to the Commissioners to finish the process.

Land Use – Steve Bratton

Null

Social Improvement and Economic Development Committee – Shelia Adams

Null

Education and Outreach Committee – Darrel Severns

Null

Transportation Committee – Jim Hughes

Null

Comprehensive Plan Referral –Roger Yarman and Darrel Severns

The RPC had tabled the approval for the Comprehensive Plan at the last meeting in order to work on it.

Mr. Bratton moved to take the Comprehensive Plan Referral off the table. Mr. Dugan seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

On the referral of the Comprehensive Plan to the Commissioners last month, there was consensus that not everybody had enough time to review it, so it was tabled to give more time for review. We received comments from one (1) Liberty Township, which were on the table in the hallway. We also had a proposal from the leadership group of the Comprehensive Plan, the small leadership group that there was a concern about Chapter 4 in 4.7, the actions taken came up and there was concern about that. The leadership group proposed to just remove the 4.7 from the document. The draft resolution, we can modify that with your discussion tonight. We would like to be able to get a consensus on what we want to send to the Commissioners as far as recommendations on this and take a vote on to send it. In 4.7 it was the language regarding building codes. So, on rather to rewrite the language we decided it best to remove it from the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Caldwell asked in section 3.2 they were talking about improving the roadways and extending Sycamore Road and are there any more details on this? Mr. Severns stated there were no more details than that. It starts at Route 657 and ends at Hopewell Road. There really isn't a way to extend it. There is considerable traffic on that road. It was suggested to get money to straighten the curves and widen it, that would make it a better road. Mr. Severns suggested to hook up dozers to both ends and pull it tight. Ms. Caldwell stated that if they are going to extend it maybe elaborate on it. No one had ever seen this stated anywhere. It may have been in the comments on the roadways that needed attention. It is one of Knox County's wider county roads, but it has hairpin curves and dangerous intersections. The Chapter and verse on this section is 3.2 under Chapter 5 Mobility on page 107. Mr. Severns stated that there are more modifications that need to be included in the draft.

Mr. Spurgeon, Liberty Township had a few recommendations and questions. See Comprehensive Plan attachment. They would like to see sub-headings for each chapter showing what is included in the chapter along with the page numbers. Under the Conservation, Character, and Development Map, where did designation for "Mixed Rural" in Liberty Township come from? Under the Economic, Workforce, and Housing Resilience under Objective 4, section 4.7 was taken care of. Under Mobility, the general concern is that they are using a six (6) year old study/data and maps that do not reflect accurate statistics or population. Under 3.6 they would like clarification, is this suggesting tape and lights ON the road or on the horse drawn vehicles?

Mr. Severns said to read the last two (2) paragraphs on the handout for the Comprehensive Plan. It is not a legal document. It is a guide for directing conservation and development in Knox County. It can be used as a tool directing growth and assist in obtaining resources to accomplish goals to the benefit of the citizens of Knox County. It is still subject to the public adoption process. The township resolutions themselves, as it says in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) it must be in accordance with a Comprehensive Plan. So, if you are doing something in your zoning resolution, and the Comprehensive Plan that you are basing it on is clear 180 degrees away from what you are doing. Then, someone who is challenging that may have a case because it is completely opposed to what your Comprehensive Plan is saying. Ms. Severns stated that it is more of a defense piece that can be used, not necessarily a legal document.

Ms. Caldwell asked who besides trustees or grant writers might look at this? Are there any groups that might look at it? Developers would look at it, as well as other government agencies would look at it if they are asking for grants for whatever they are trying to do to stay in accordance with that plan.

There was a recommendation not to extend Sycamore Road. It was noted by Mr. Severns to change it from “extend” Sycamore Road to “improve.”

Mr. Bratton moved to approve the Comprehensive Plan to the Commissioners with revisions noted. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 19 yes votes, 1 nay votes. Motion carried.

Knox County Commissioner – Barry Lester

We did have public hearings on the industrial solar and passed a resolution regarding the large solar facilities and banned it from the 20 townships with exception of Middlebury and Wayne Townships will be on a case by case basis.

Knox Public Health – Landon Magers

Null

Knox Area Development (ADF) – Jeff Gottke

Null

Knox Soil and Water Report – Rob Clendening

Hope to see some of you at the annual KSWCD Local Elected Officials Pancake luncheon tomorrow, held here in the basement of the Memorial Building. We are getting information together for that. You have heard me talk about the cover crop program and the H2Ohio Program that we are working on here locally. Those two programs together, over the next two (2) year period will result in around half a million dollars in direct payments in local agricultural producers. You were talking about the Comprehensive Plan, there is some language that talks about trying to improve the situations for local agricultural producers, that’s one way to do it. At the same time, we are investing some conservation measures. Mr. Yarman asked if there were any sick chickens in the area and Mr. Clendening stated that he had not heard of any.

County, City and Village Reports

Brinkhaven/Gann – Sheila Adams

Null

Centerburg – Daniel Hardwick

Null

Danville – Jeff Furay

Null

Fredericktown – Ray Brewer

Null

Gambier – Leeman Kessler

We are following the new proposed bill at the State House that would limit municipalities from being able to regulate short-term rentals, Air B&B and things like that. We are hoping it doesn’t go anywhere. It is something that we are aware of and following.

Martinsburg – Robert Collins

Null

Mount Vernon – Matt Starr

Null

Speaker – Roger Yarman, RPC Chairman, College Township

Space Suit Tester for NASA. Back in 1969 Mr. Yarman had three real good things happen to him. First thing that happened was Woodstock. He went and got about ten miles away and everyone was parking their cars on Route 17 and getting out and walking. He had a '67 GTO and he was not about to leave it on the road. He turned around in the median and went back to a friend's house and spent the night and came back to Dover, Delaware. The next thing was he got out of the Air Force. Third thing is he wore Neil Armstrong's suite that he wore the moon. Mr. Yarman was the first man in that suit. He tested space suits for a contractor of NASA, at ILC Industries in Dover, Delaware.

See slideshow for pictures. First and second slides are of the inner space suit. There is a zipper coming down the side and one around the back. This is the only suit you could put on by yourself. The you have to have someone help you put on the other suits to zip it up in the back. The gadgets on the suit; the two (2) red ones are air exhaust, the two (2) blue ones on the other side are for air intake, the little one next to the blue is for communication, the ones beside it are for liquid cooling and heat (LGC is liquid cooling garment), the item just above all of those is where you would tie onto the spaceship if you go outside the craft. The cables and pullies going around and above, that is where you made adjustments to the length. When the suits are pressurized, 3.75/pounds pressure on the inside. If you didn't have those cables and pullies, around the neck rings, through the crotch and out the back, you wouldn't be able to move. You would be like a balloon.

One time when Mr. Yarman was in this suit and the cable broke, and the neck ring went up and bloodied his nose really bad. He bled down into the suit and ruined a \$3 million suit. The second slide is an A511 or an A711 suit. To bend over he has to get ahold of the cord and pull on it so that the suite will bend over. The gloves are on the suit. The neck ring was changed and, on the inside, there little things that looked like the end of your fingers. When you wanted pressure, you used that to clear your ears from the pressure.

The fifth slide is the outer suit. There is a place to give injections if needed is in the leg. There is also a hook-up to the urinal. The zipper is covered. In the back of these there is a zipper that covers the whole length of it. You crawl into the back of it like a seven year locust then someone zips you up in the back. You then snap the head gear on and the last to go on is the gloves. The gloves are color coded for right and left so that when you start pressurizing you would blow the helmet off when you start to put it on. There are the inner boots, and the outer boots are the ones that left the footprints on the moon. There were two sets of gloves. The cuffs went over the ring on sleeves. If dust gets down in the rings, you wouldn't be able to get them off. This is the LCG garment underneath the outer suit. There were a lot of little, tiny vinyl rivets, tubing, sewed into it by hand. Warm water went in, and exhaust water came out. You could regulate your body temperature by turning the temperature up or down.

In the fifth slide, upper right side, this is the forerunner for Depends, from the lunar missions and the Shuttle missions. It was cloth and padded a little bit, early Depends. Above that is the bladder item he mentioned earlier. If an astronaut needed to urinate, he was connected to this item which was connected to a condom and when it got full, he could empty it, he would take that hose which came out into that pocket and plug it in. The pressure from the suit would push the urine out into a collection. That suit has a blue ring indicating that it is a work suit. A red ring indicates it is a flight suit. The cost of the suit in 1969 was a little over \$1.5 million. These suits are not used anymore except for space walks. This one pictured is an early one. The A411 that Mr. Yarman tested is used now. He carried all it around with all the gear and an air bottle in the back of his GTO to do demonstrations at schools, theaters, and etc.

In the sixth slide you will see all the hoses, the gloves with the covering on them to protect them, the backpack for his oxygen, heat, and cool, everything that you needed to preserve life out in space. This was called, by one of the astronauts, a one man spacecraft. Each man had his own spacecraft. What a lot of people don't realize is that they only wore these on takeoff until they went into orbit and to come back, unless they were going to do a spacewalk working on stuff. They didn't wear it inside the capsules.

The seventh slide shows a picture of Roger with the suite pressurized; you see where it is blown up. You can see the cables that bent his nose up. This is out of a 3-ring cover he had with a bunch of pictures and autographs from the astronauts. Mr. Yarman did this for a year and a half. After the Apollo flight to the moon, they cut back. There were houses down around Cape Kennedy, million dollar houses were selling for \$100,000. This was because so many people were cut and gotten rid of.

The eighth slide shows Mr. Yarman in the whole suit and he only has two hoses because it was a demonstration, one intake and one exhaust. This was May of 1970. It was asked what heated the water. The capsule would have the heating and cooling, or the backpack provided the heating and cooling for the water circulation in the suits on missions. The backpack also produced oxygen and would filter out your breath. What got him into this type of job? His first wife used to sell them and got him the job. The funny thing is, his current wife, they were in Texas and came across I-10 to go to her dad's place in Daytona, and there is a NASA place there where they test the engines. They take the big engines into a big place and bolt them in place and deafen everyone within ten miles. Well, there is a museum. We went into the museum and everywhere you went there was an Armstrong suit. There were books there on a rack on how the suit was built. His ex-wife was in the book. He didn't buy the book.

The plant that made the suits was under heavy security. It was ILC Industries (International Latex Corporation). They made latex bras, 17-hour girdles, Playtex Nurser (baby bottle that had the little bag inserts), and other items. The suits were made in Dover, Delaware. The astronauts would come into Dover Air Force Base, fly in from Houston and go downtown to the hotel. The next day they would come into the plant. They are just regular people, actually just pilots. Because they got to know them really well, they would call Mr. Yarman up and say they want to go to dinner. They would end up down at a little bar at Davis Beach and stay till around midnight or one in the morning. He would take them back to the hotel and the next day, see them at the plant. It was an interesting time. The new suit, they would have to do exercises in it. There would be a room full of people, about four times the size of this room, and each one of them would have a clicker. They would count the movements of each part of the body of the suit. The suit would have to pass three missions worth of movement before engineering could be qualified to go. The suits would break on them as they were working them. So, they would work them a little harder than normal so they would break and they would have to re-engineer it. There were two other guys that were suit subjects like Mr. Yarman. That came up with different things they could do to make it better so that it wouldn't rub you and chafe you, making it easier to work. When you signed on you got a dollar for your ideas.

Mr. Yarman was about 22 years of age when he worked there. He was asked if he had pictures of his GTO and he said he did. It was a lime green metallic with a black line with a 400 sitting in it. He didn't like the 4-barrel so he put trips on it. It would burn 950 tires off in about three months.

He showed a postcard about the guys that went to the moon. If you look really closely, the two have blue neck rings and the one is red which is a flight suit. One night he got a call to come into the clean room at the factory to fit check a suit. When they got ready to ship a suit to Houston, someone would get in it and work, make sure everything functioned, you could breathe and had water and everything through it. It was an automatic four (4) hours overtime to do it and he live close by. He went in and went through the shower, the blow dry, out the union suit on, walked into the clean room, and there is the suit. It was Armstrong's suit. It was his flight suit. So, he got in it, and they zipped him up in the back. He put the helmet and gloves on and worked it around a half an hour to make sure everything worked. He got out of it, got dressed and went home. The next thing you know, it was going to the moon. He said he should have signed it, but they were particular about any contaminates in or on the suits.

Others from the floor

Null

Mr. Bratton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Knox County Regional Planning Commission will be April 17, 2025, in the Knox County Service Center 117 E. High St., Mount Vernon, OH at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Darrel Severns
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

[03-20-2025 Comprehensive Plan Draft Recommendations.pdf](#)

[Roger Yarman Pictures.pptx](#)

[..\..\Financial Report\2025\MAR2025 Yearly Financial Report.pdf](#)

[03-20-2025 Sign-in Sheet and Vote Sheet](#)