

Essential Service Committee Meeting
May 19, 2026
Minutes

The Essential Service Committee held a regular scheduled meeting on May 19, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Government Center in Vernon, Indiana. The meeting was called to order by Executive Director Marie Shepherd

Those present: John Post, Becca McClellan, Jerry Shepherd, Cheryl Miller, Mike Cole, Keith Messer, Eric Wiesman and Executive Director Marie Shepherd.

The **first item** of business was the elections of officers for 2026. Becca McClellan nominated Cheryl Miller for president. Jerry Shepherd seconded the motion. John Post made a motion to close the nominations. Becca McClellan seconded the motion. This passed unanimously with 7 members voting in favor.

Becca McClellan nominated Keith Messer for vice president. Jerry Shepherd seconded the motion. John Post made a motion to close the nominations. Mike Cole seconded the motion. This passed unanimously with 7 members voting in favor.

The **second item** of business was the reading, corrections, and approval of the minutes from the April 21, 2026, meeting. After reviewing the minutes, Becca McClellan made the motion to approve the minutes with the following name corrections: Lucas Newsom and Glorianna Robbins. Mike Cole seconded the motion. This passed unanimously with 7 members voting in favor.

The **third item** of business was the rezone request of Jim Biehle of KJB Properties, LLC. He would like to rezone parcel #40-09-34-240-080.000-004 located at 149 5th Street, North Vernon from Commercial Historic Downtown to Residential Multi-Family. This would bring this property into compliance for its usage.

Commonly known as: 149 5th Street, North Vernon IN 47265
Legal Description: N V PT 227 S, 229 S
Map Number: 40-09-34-240-080.000-004

After a brief discussion with Jim Biehle, Mike Cole made the motion to approve the rezone. John Post seconded the motion. This passed unanimously with 7 members voting in favor. The Area Plan Commission will hear the request at their June 1, 2026, meeting.

The **fourth item** of business was the rezone request of Richard Roney & Suzannah Martin. They would like to rezone parcel #40-04-30-300-011.000-006 located at 8435 N Co Rd 380 W, Scipio from Residential Single-Family to Agriculture. This would bring this property into compliance for its usage.

Commonly known as: 8435 N Co Rd 380 W, Scipio IN 47273
Legal Description: PT SWQ 30-8-8 3.2089 AC
Map Number: 40-04-30-300-011.000-006

After a brief discussion, Keith Messer made the motion to approve the rezone. Jerry Shepherd seconded the motion. This passed unanimously with 7 members voting in favor. The Area Plan Commission will hear the request at their June 1, 2026, meeting.

The **fifth item** of business was the rezone request of Walter Grills. He is parceling off the house & garage located at 2400 N State Hwy 7, North Vernon and leaving it Agriculture, and rezoning the remainder of the property to Commercial Planned Business.

Commonly known as: 2400 N State Hwy 7, North Vernon IN 47265
Legal Description: PT NE ¼ SWQ 28-7-8 .90AC PT NE ¼ SWQ 28-7-8 1.37AC
Map Number: 40-09-28-300-033.000-004

After a brief discussion with Walter Grills, Becca McClellan made the motion to approve the rezone. Keith Messer seconded the motion. This passed unanimously with 7 members voting in favor. The Area Plan Commission will hear the request at their June 1, 2026, meeting.

The **sixth item** of business was the rezone request of JM Property Group NC LLC, represented by Sara Ford of Wallick Development, LLC. They would like to rezone parcel #40-09-33-200-017.000-004 located at Brookside Drive, North Vernon from Agriculture to Residential Multi-Family for a proposed 44-unit, multi-family housing development.

Commonly known as: Brookside Drive, North Vernon IN 47265
Legal Description: PT NWQ 33-7-8 11.069 AC
Map Number: 40-09-33-200-017.000-004

After a brief discussion with Sara Ford, Keith Messer made the motion to approve the rezone. Jerry Shepherd seconded the motion. This passed unanimously with 7 members voting in favor. The Area Plan Commission will hear the request at their June 1, 2026, meeting.

The **seventh item** of business was a survey plat approval for the Oscar & Evelyn Elsner Commerce Park. This property is zoned (PDMX) Planned Unit Development Mixed Use.

Commonly known as: N State Hwy 7, North Vernon IN 47265
Legal Description: PT NWQ 28-7-8 2.54 AC
PT NEQ 29-7-8 10.16 AC
Map Numbers: 40-09-28-200-020.000-004
40-09-29-100-016.000-004

After a brief discussion with Steve Elsner, Mike Cole made the motion to approve the plat for a Major Subdivision. Jerry Shepherd seconded the motion. This passed unanimously with 7 members voting in favor. The Area Plan Commission will hear the request at their June 1, 2026, meeting.

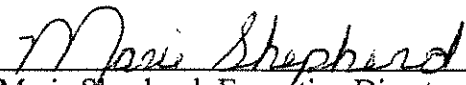
OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, Becca McClellan made the motion to adjourn. Keith Messer seconded the motion. This passed unanimously with 7 members voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Marie Shepherd, Executive Director
Jennings County Area Plan Commission