Paris Township Zoning Meeting Minutes - May 14, 2026

Attendees from Zoning Board:

Dan Spicer - Chairman/member
Ryan Tessean - member
Kara Suzelis - member/interim secretary
Nathan “Buzz” Johnson - alternate member
Robert McKain - alternate member

Absent (excused) - Renee Rambo

Resident Attendees:

See attached sheet

Meeting called to order: 7:05pm
Roll Called: Kara Suzelis

Nathan “Buzz” Johnson and Robert McKain to fill in as members for Renee Rambo and Greg Hards.

Dan Spicer announced that Greg Hards has stepped down as a Zoning Board member, but is willing to continue on as an alternate.

Dan expressed gratitude for Greg’s many years of dutiful service to the Zoning Board and community.

Old Business:

- Meeting Minutes:
    - March 12, 2026 minutes
        - Unanimous approval of March 12, 2026 minutes draft
    - April 9, 2026 minutes
        - Robert McKain suggested changes to the April 9, 2026 minutes draft.
        - Unanimous approval of April 9, 2026 minutes, as amended.

New Business:

- Hand outs of the working version on Wind and Solar Energy Regulations, to be considered for inclusion in the Paris Township Zoning Resolution, were provided to the residents in attendance.
- The Zoning Board, with input and discussion with the community members in attendance, agreed upon a draft for Wind and Solar Energy Regulations. See attached.
    - Section 502.1 will continue to be addressed. The board will continue to discuss the appropriate wording.
        - Discussion included limiting the size of small solar energy systems to a percentage of usable land.

        - Dan Spicer will speak with Todd Peetz regarding solar energy limitations of solar.

Motion to end Meeting:

- Motion made: Kara Suzelis
- Seconded: Ryan Tessean
- Meeting adjourned: 8:41 pm

Next meeting: June 11, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Suzelis, interim secretary

Paris Township Public Zoning Meeting - May 14, 2026

Name	Address	Phone	Email
LORi Babbey	10524 NF Rd	330.872.5322	lrg904@yahoo
Steve Babbey	"	"	bigetevo@hotmail.com
Ed Samec	9229 Newton Falls Rd Ravenna 44266	(330) 389-1313	esamec8018@gmail.com
Nathan Johnson	6529 Wayland Rd. Ravenna, OH 44266	(234) 296-1324	nac.ncj@gmail.com
John Yutzy	6824 State Rt 225 Ravenna, Ohio 44266	330.999.1035	john.yutzy@Hotmail.com
Raymond P. Sheets	8767 Parsons Newton Falls Rd	330-646-0155	sheetsrg@hotmail.com
Chris Putnat	5549 Wayland	(208) 724-5184	christopher.putnat@gmail.com
Nicholas Hodnicky	10533 McClain Rd	330-422-9565	nhodnicky@gmail.com
Jennifer Garrett	10533 McClain Rd	330-422-9518	j.garrett6785@gmail.com
Dorene Spicer	6180 ST Rt 225	(330) 235-3346	dironsspicer@gmail
Ed Harrison	10329 Gilbert Rd.	(330) 984-5007	celtic three@aol.com
Nick Groves	9720 Griffith Rd	(330) 281-3202	Grover652010@yahoo.com
Shawna Bailey	10392 Newton Falls Rd Newton Falls Oh	330-984-3337	Shawna.baileysold@gmail
Brian Bailey	10392 Newton Falls Rd Newton Falls Ohio	330 984-5864	

ARTICLE V

WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY REGULATIONS

501 Wind Energy Systems

501.1 Purposes

Small wind energy systems shall be allowed in all zoning districts, in accordance with the requirements of this section.

501.1.1 Allowable number of towers and wind turbines.

a. Towers: No more than one energy tower may be erected on any single property in accordance with this section, unless otherwise stipulated in this resolution.
b. Wind Turbines: Any number of wind energy turbines may be in operation on a single property in accordance with this section.

501.1.2 Height

The total height of wind energy systems is measured as the vertical distance from the ground level to the tip of a wind generator blade when the tip is at its highest point and shall not exceed the following maximum height requirements;

a. Wind Towers:

1) Properties within 10,000 feet of an airport must comply with FAA height standards and regulations.

b. Attachments to existing buildings and towers

1) Building Wind Turbine(s) may be affixed to the building or the roof, providing that:

- The total height of the wind turbine is less than 20 feet above the highest point of the building.

2) Towers - a wind turbine may be attached to an existing tower, provided that:

- The tower is designed to accommodate the wind turbine

501.1.3 Location

a. Tower setbacks

1) Shall be located at least 110 percent of its height from any public road right of way.

2) Shall be located at least 110 percent of its height from any overhead utility lines except for those lines directly serving the subject's property.

3) Shall be located at 110 percent of its height from all property boundaries.

4) If guy wires are utilized as part of the tower design, the guy wire anchors shall be placed at least 50 feet from any abutting property boundaries.

5) Shall be located a minimum of 110% of tower height from any structure on the property.

b. Wind Turbine setbacks

1) The minimum distance a wind turbine may be from the property boundaries, if it is located on a building, must equal a distance that is equal to the height of the wind turbine from the ground.

501.1.4 Fencing

a. A six (6) foot high lockable fence must be installed around the perimeter of the tower base unless both of the following conditions are met:

1) If the base of the tower is designed to prohibit climbing for a distance of eight (8) feet, as measured from the ground.

2) All access doors to the wind turbine and electrical equipment are locked to prevent unauthorized entry.

501.1.5 Electrical Interference

The small wind energy system shall not cause any radio, television, microwave, or navigation interference. If a signal disturbance problem is identified, the owner must correct the

problem immediately.

501.1.6 Noise

The wind energy system shall not exceed the sound level (decibels) specified in the schedule below:

Maximum Permitted Sound Levels (decibels) for small wind energy systems

Octave band, cycles/seconds	Sound decibels levels measured at the property lines cannot exceed the following
0-75	72
75.1-150	67
150.1-300	59
300.1-600	52
600.1-1200	40
1200.1-2400	46
2400.1-4800	34
Over 4800	32

501.1.7 Compliance with FAA regulations

All towers shall be painted a non-contrasting gray, blue, white, green or similar color to minimize its visibility unless otherwise required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The applicant has the responsibility of determining the applicable FAA regulations and securing the necessary approvals. Copies of letters must be included as part of the application process.

501.1.8 Lighting

Except as required by law, a tower shall not be illuminated

and lighting fixtures or signs shall not be attached to the tower. If lighting is required by the FAA regulations, white strobe lights shall not be permitted at night unless FAA permits no other alternatives. No lighting shall be constructed, placed or maintained in a manner that will constitute a nuisance to any surrounding property and shall in no way impair safe movement of traffic on any street or highway.

501.1.9 Advertising

No advertising is permitted anywhere on the facility with the exception of signage being utilized for product identification and warnings.

501.1.10 Warnings

a. A clearly visible warning sign concerning voltage must be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and substations.

b. Visible, reflective, colored objects, such as flags, reflectors, or tape shall be placed on the anchor points of guy wires and along the guy wires every two (2) feet up to 10 (ten) feet from the ground.

501.1.11 Maintenance

a. The design and location of the small wind energy system shall ensure that all maintenance can be conducted from the installation site.

b. A small wind energy system that is not functional shall be repaired by the owner or removed.

501.1.12 Decommissioning

a. When a wind energy system reaches the end of its useful life and can no longer function, the landowner of where the system is placed shall have the system removed within 120 days of the day on which the system last functioned. The property owner shall be responsible for the removal of any abandoned energy system. An abandoned system is considered any system that has not been in operation for six (6) months. The owner will then have a period of 120 days (4 months) in which to dismantle and remove the system from the property.

501.1.13 Safety Features

a. The small wind energy system turbine shall be required to have an automatic over-speed control to render the system inoperable when the winds are in excess of the speed the system is designed to accommodate.

b. The small wind energy system shall be required to have a manually operable method to render the system inoperable in the event of a structural or mechanical failure of any part of the system.

501.1.14 Blade clearances

a. The clearance or the distance between the blades of a wind turbine and the blades of another wind turbine shall be no less than ten (10) feet.

b. The clearance of the distance between the blades of a wind turbine and the ground shall be no less than fifteen (15) feet.

501.1.15 Application and Plan approval

All wind energy systems shall require administrative plan approval by the Paris Township Zoning Inspector.

a. Plan Applications shall be accompanied by to-scale horizontal and vertical (elevation) drawings showing the location of the system on the building or property, including property lines.

b. All wind power systems must be in compliance with the Ohio Power Siting Board and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO).

c. After receiving township approval from the zoning inspector, the applicant must submit plans to the Portage County Building Official. He/she will verify compliance with the Residential Building Code of Ohio, the commercial code, and the electric code.

d. Utility Notifications

1) The owner of the wind energy system must contact the utility company if wanting to connect to the utility grid. Off-grid systems shall be exempt from this requirement.

501.1.16 Decommissioning

a. the property owner shall be responsible for the removal of any abandoned energy system. An abandoned system is considered any system that has not been in operation for six (6) months. The owner will then have a period of six (6) months in which to dismantle and remove the system from the property.

502 Solar Energy Systems

502.1 Purposes

Small solar energy systems shall be permitted in all zoning districts in accordance with the requirements of this section. Small solar energy systems do not exceed 120% of a property's highest monthly consumption per month. - we will need to change this - more discussion to be made

502.1.1 Design and Installation

a. Code Compliance The small solar energy system shall comply with all applicable, currently adopted codes, including the Ohio Building Code, Residential Code of Ohio, Electric Code, or other Construction Code.

1) Conformance with Industry Standards

The design and installation of small solar energy systems shall conform to applicable industry standards, including those of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or other similar certifying organizations, and shall comply with the Residential Code of Ohio, the Ohio Building Code, and with all other applicable fire and life safety requirements.

2) Manufacturer Specifications

The manufacturer specifications shall be submitted as part of the application

502.1.2 Site Requirements

502.1.2.1 Buried Lines

All exterior electrical and/or plumbing lines must be buried

below the surface of the ground and be placed in a conduit.

502.1.2.2 Glare Control

Small solar energy systems shall be designed to prevent reflective glare toward or on inhabited structures on adjacent properties as well as adjacent street right-of-ways.

502.1.2.4 Height Restrictions Solar energy systems must meet the following requirements

a. Building or roof-mounted solar energy systems shall not exceed the maximum allowed height in any zoning district. For purposes of the height measurement solar energy systems other than building-integrated systems shall be considered to be mechanical devices and are restricted consistent with other building-mounted mechanical devices.
b. Ground or pole mounted solar energy systems shall not exceed the maximum accessory structure height within the underlying district.

502.1.2.5 Setback

Solar energy systems must meet the accessory structure setback for the zoning for the zoning district and primary land use associated with the lot on which the system is located.

a. Roof-mounted

In addition to the building setback, the collector surface and mounting devices for roof-mounted solar energy systems shall not extend beyond the exterior perimeter of the building on which the system is mounted or built. Exterior piping for solar hot water systems shall be allowed to extend beyond the perimeter of the building on a side yard exposure. Solar collectors mounted on the sides of buildings and serving as awnings are considered to be solar energy dual purpose systems and are considered to be awnings.

b. Ground mounted

Ground-mounted solar energy systems may not extend into the side-yard or rear setback when oriented at

minimum design tilt.

502.1.3 Plan Approval Required

All solar energy systems shall require administrative plan approval by the Paris Township Zoning Inspector.

502.1.3.1 Plan Applications

Plan applications for solar energy systems shall be accompanied by to-scale horizontal and vertical (elevation) drawings. The drawings must show the location of the system on the building or on the property for a ground-mount system, including the property lines.

a. Pitched Roof Mounted Solar Energy Systems

For all roof-mounted systems other than a flat roof the elevation must show the highest finished slope of the solar collector and the slope of the finished roof surface on which it is mounted.

b. Flat Roof Mounted Solar Energy Systems

For flat roof applications, a drawing shall be submitted showing the distance to the roof edge and any parapets on the building and shall identify the height of the building on the street frontage side, the shortest distance of the system from the street frontage edge of the building, and the highest finished height of the solar collector above the finished surface of the roof.

502.1.3.2 Plan Approvals

Applications that meet the design requirements of this ordinance and do not require a conditional use permit shall be granted administrative approval by the Zoning Inspector. Plan approval does not indicate compliance with any currently adopted Ohio Building Code, Residential Code of Ohio, or Electric Code. After receiving township approval from the zoning inspector, the applicant must submit plans to the Portage County Building Official. He/she will verify compliance with the Residential Building Code of Ohio, the commercial code, and the electric code.

502.1.3.3 Utility Notifications

The owner of the small energy system shall provide written authorization that the public utility company has been informed of the customer's internet to install an interconnected customer-owned generator and also approves of such connection. Off-grid systems shall be exempt from this requirement.

502.1.3.4 Decommissioning

a. the property owner shall be responsible for the removal of any abandoned energy system. An abandoned system is considered any system that has not been in operation for six (6) months. The property owner will then have a period of 120 days (4) months in which to dismantle and remove the system from the property.