

Cato Township Planning Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2026

The Cato Township Planning Commission met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at the Lakeview Community Center.

**Meeting called to order:**

Chairman Main called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members present:**

Main expires 12-2028  
Cumings expires 12-2026  
Rasmussen expires 12-2028  
Dave Kelsey

**Members absent:**

Striker expires 12-2026  
Behrenwald expires 11-2028

**Others present:**

8 members of public

**Approval of Agenda:**

Main motioned and Rasmussen supported to approve the meeting agenda as presented.  
All in favor, motion carried

**January 2026 Meeting Minutes:**

Main motioned and Cumings supported to approve the January meeting minutes as presented.  
All in favor, motion carried.

**Public Comment-Agenda Items Only:**

Main opened public comment.  
-None  
Main closed public comment for agenda items.

**Zoning Administrator Update:**

**February:**

-Demo/ New build approved  
-Blight Violation

Adult Foster Cares are not listed in any district for a approved use.

-Commissioners discussed and decided that there is verbiage in section 5.02 Special Land use that allows this use in the AR district.

Commercial kennels are not listed in the AR district as permitted or special use. Commercial kennels also require a minimum of 10 Acres.

-Commissioners discussed the discrepancies and decided that the current ordinance should be updated and added as a permitted use. The Kennel in question should be allowed to continue to operate in its current location.

**Old Business:**

- Text amendments
- Changes to manufactured homes

Main Motioned to have a public hearing on these items in May, Rasmussen 2nd

**New Business:**

- Data Mining Facilities

-Commissioners discussed the infrastructure requirements for the Data Facilities.

-Commissioners read through the Sample Ordinance for data mining facilities, and recommended a couple changes to the sample.

Main Motioned to have a public hearing on this Sample Ordinance in May, Cumings 2nd

**Public Comment:**

Lane Leppink Cato

- Applauded the PC for allowing Second Chance Bird Dogs to continue

Jay Vandyke Cato

- Against the proposed turkey farm within Cato Township

- Stated that he believes the proposed Turkey Farm goes against current zoning because of the adjacent Rural Residential Parcels

- Asked if the owners of the proposed turkey farm have reached out

- Encouraged the Planning Commission to use the authority to stop the proposed turkey farm

- Asked the planning commission to look into the Right To Farm Act

- Concerned about the smell and other environmental effects

Marcey Myers Cato

- Stated that the "R1" on a tax bill is a tax code, and the proposed farm is in the AR District.

Cindy Saffell Cato

- Stated that she is zoned Rural Residential and is adjacent to the proposed Turkey Farm

- She is concerned about the smells, flies, and potential negative effects in the ground water.

John Brecht Cato

- Just built a new house and has dreamed of moving to the family property.
- Concerned about the trucks and smells, stated his daughter is sensitive to different environments.
- Concerned about the proposed farms water use and property values being decreased due to the proposed turkey farm.
- Stated he would not have purchased and built the new house if he knew this was going to happen.

Jay Vandyke Cato

- Does the township do any studies on damage to the roads from the trucks?
- Does the Proposed farm have to get a permit to build?

Julie Eck Cato

- Brandi said something might be finalized in the middle of March, is there any known things that have been finalized?

Gerald Saffell Cato

- If the PC does not have authority, who can we go to stop this?

Jay Vandyke Cato

- Believes that the proposed farm did not give proper notification to the surrounding area.
- Stated that the neighboring properties could potentially challenge the proposed turkey farm at the state level.

Main Closed Public Comment

**Next Meeting:**

Next Regular meeting scheduled for May 13, 2026.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the commission, a motion was made by Main and supported by Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Recorded by:  
Jacob Cumings  
Commissioner, Cato Township Planning Commission