

SECTION I – BACKGROUND

A. Statutory Basis and Purpose of Plan

This Plan is developed pursuant to the requirements of Act 184 of 1943, Act 168 of 1959 and The Michigan Enabling Act, Act 33 of 2008 as amended, being the Township Rural Zoning Act. This Act requires that a zoning ordinance be based upon a plan designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the Township residents, to encourage the use of lands in accordance with their character and adaptability, to limit the improper use of land; to conserve natural resources and energy; to meet the needs of the state's residents for food, fiber and other natural resources, places of residence, recreation, industry, trade, service, and other uses of land; to insure that uses of the land shall be situated in appropriate locations and relationships.

To avoid the overcrowding of population; to provide adequate light and air; to lessen congestion on public roads and streets; to reduce hazards to life and property; to facilitate adequate provisions for system of transportation, sewage disposal, safe and adequate water supply; education, recreation and other public requirements.

To conserve the expenditure of funds for public improvements and services to conform to the most advantageous uses of land resources and properties.

The purpose of the Plan is to be a sound basis for administration of the Township Zoning Ordinance and to provide a guide for the conservation of natural resources and property values and the general development of land and population for Kearney Township, Antrim County, Michigan.

B. Township History

The Township of Kearney was set off from Forest Home Township at the January 1875 meeting of the Supervisors of Antrim County. The first annual election was held the first Monday in April 1875. The land was designated as "all that part of Town 30 North, Range 7 and 8 West, lying East of the center of Intermediate Lake and the thread of the Intermediate River." The boundaries remain the same today.

A post office was established on January 17, 1876 near the intersection of Eddy School Road and Derenzy Road. George Palmer was the first postmaster. The post office was discontinued after March 1883.

While no actual connection can be found to an early settler, the name Kearney probably referred to a place in Ireland. It was habit to name places after that country because this area so reminded our forefathers of the beautiful countryside in Ireland.