

Watson Township Planning Commission

July 26, 2017

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order-
Chairman Troy Baker called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll call and recognition of visitors-
Present: Chuck Andrysiak, Troy Baker, Bev McKinnon and Bruce Bos
Absent: Barb Wroblewski, Joe Albers, Don Bailey
Lori Castello from PCI was also in attendance.
Visitors: Teresa Male of 1650 120th Ave.
Brady Cole of 2130 Miller Lake Dr.
Kevin Travis of 2050 16th St.
Lee Gorton of 1882 13th St.
Corey Smith of 720 S. Farmer St.
Brendan Smith of 720 S. Farmer St.
Brad Berry of 4185 Pine St. Dorr, MI
Luke Sullivan of 455 10th St.
Chris Letts of 12919 32nd St.
Caleb Letts of 12919 32nd St.
Dave Philley of 1930 10th St.
Danny Baird of 217 Brook St. Lowell, MI
Mike Dale of 1740 3rd St.
Holly Alexander (no address given)
Corey Funk of 525 W. Superior St. Wayland, MI
Marlee Funk of 525 W. Superior St. Wayland, MI
4. Reading and review of the Minutes from June, 2017 meeting. Bev motioned to accept minutes. Chuck seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
5. Reading and review of the Agenda. Chuck motioned to accept the agenda. Bev seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

6. Public comments not on Agenda:

Troy opened the floor to visitor discussion. Corey Smith addressed the commission and explained that he had held a motorcycle and ATV hill climb. There were some incidents and complaints that arose from this event and he wanted to explain what the hill climb event is about and who benefits from it. He also wanted to hear from the commission as to what direction they need to take to make the event compliant and permissible.

Lori Costello (PCI) then explained what is allowed in an Ag 2 zoned district and that the land would have to be rezoned. She also explained that since this is not a public hearing on this topic, there could be no actions taken at this time. Bruce Bos asked how often they were looking to schedule these hill climbs. Corey S. clarified that they are hoping for a schedule which would allow 2 weekends per year. Troy Baker stated that the Planning Commission will consider this topic amongst ourselves but he should most likely take up their request first with the Township Board as the Planning Commission acts on direction from the Board.

Troy closed the floor to visitor discussion.

7. New Business:

a. *Public Hearing for Amendment to Section 22.16 of the Zoning Ordinance.*

Troy recites the rules for a Public Hearing. Bruce reads from and recites the posting as was published in the Allegan News. Bruce then read the names that the notice was also mailed to. No member of the commission has received any comments by letter or other means from the public.

Troy reviewed and went through the proposed change.

Brady Cole from Miller Lake Campground asked about how this change might affect their dwellings. Lori C. clarified that properties in mobile home parks and campgrounds are exempt from the proposed change.

Further discussion as to the possible changes continued among the members of the planning commission. Chuck brought up a concern as to why we are doing this and what is our intent. This concern was also given by Bruce. Bruce asked about any dimensional variance. Lori then elaborated on the variance and its definitions which would need to be reviewed by to ZBA if a variance was requested. Chuck wondered if Kevin Kutscher (Watson Twp. Assessor) could put together a report that would show how many single-wide dwellings now exist in the township. Chuck made a motion to table the discussion. Bev seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

8. Old Business:

- a. Troy discussed and reviewed the topic of changes and possible needs to amend the zoning ordinances pertaining to signage. Lori went through and reviewed any changes and stated that Section 16.03 J needs to be removed among other possible needs. A discussion took place over making changes to our current sign ordinance versus replacing it in whole with the new example created by Lori. We will continue to discuss in detail these possible changes at our September, 2017 meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bruce and was seconded by Chuck. Motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bruce Bos
Watson Township Planning Commission Secretary