

Watson Township Planning Commission

March 22, 2017

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order-
Chairman Troy Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll call and recognition of visitors-
Present: Barb Wroblewski, Bev McKinnon, Don Bailey, Chuck Andrysiak, Troy Baker, and Bruce Bos
Absent: Joe Albers
Kirk Sharphorn from PCI was also in attendance.
Visitors: John Langlois, Matt Langlois, Luke Langlois, Rod Modenstien, Andrea Estelle and Beth Smith.
4. Reading and review of the Minutes from February, 2017 meeting. Chuck motioned to accept minutes. Don seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
5. Public comments not on Agenda: None
6. A motion was then made by Chuck to accept the Meeting Agenda and was seconded by Don. Motion was approved.
7. New Business:
 - a. Gravel Pit Operations: Kirk Sharphorn begins a discussion regarding the various gravel pits in operation in Watson Township and gave an update as to their status. He is getting ready to visit and review the list of gravel pits and their SUP status over the next couple of months. So far, everything seems to be up-to-date and current.

John Langlois, who operates a gravel pit near the intersection of 23rd Street and 119th Ave. is here to give an update regarding his gravel pit operation, the condition of the nearby roads and berms and is concerned about neighbors complaints he has been made aware of.

Andrea Estelle, who lives across from the Langlois gravel pit, voiced her concerns about the operations currently going on at that location as well as the truck traffic taking place on and around the premise.

John Langlois stated that he has received permission from the Allegan County Road Commission to access the grounds pertaining to the farm and the farm operations onto 23rd St. This access approval, however, is not to be used for the gravel and sand removal pertaining to the gravel pit mining operations, though.

Kirk Sharphorn stated that he will monitor the activity at the site. He will share any information in a review and will bring the Planning Commission an update at the next meeting.

- b. Second Residence Ordinance: Discussion began regarding a request made by Beth Smith as to building and/or placing a second residence on the property belonging to her father-in-law at 2223 15th Street. She and her husband desire and hope to build a second residence on the property so that they will be able to assist and care for their father (father-in-law) who is elderly and has needs and healthcare concerns. Kirk S. then gave the planning commission a background as to what the township would need to do to allow this to happen. This would also need to be done by a Special Use Permit and on a temporary basis only. Kirk further expanded on what other neighboring townships have in place for this type of situation. We then received copies of examples of ordinances from Salem and Hopkins Townships which pertain to this topic. We then reviewed these examples and with through voiced our various likes and dislikes that we see in those examples. Kirk is to put something together which we will then review at our next meeting.
8. Chuck shared and updated the Planning Commission as to how the Township Board would like to prioritize issues that we, as a Planning Commission, will be discussing in future meetings this year. These issues will be:
 1. Review and modification (if any) of our general ordinance pertaining to a 2nd residence on a property as well as possibly changing the required dimensions on new structures.
 2. Wireless Tower provisions.
 3. Signage allowances and provisions.

4. Medical marijuana dispensaries and grow houses.

9. There may also be considerations and a need to look at possible ideas of making changes as to how the township handles waste recycling for its residences.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Chuck; seconded by Don.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bruce Bos
Watson Township Planning Commission Secretary