

Morton Township Board of Trustees
Minutes of Special Meeting to Approve Special Use Permit PL-19-001
Thursday, May 9; 2019 @ 2:00 pm
290 West Main Street, Mecosta MI 49332

Call to Order 2:00 pm

Roll Call: Dick Wheeler, Maureen Wolfe, Yo Bellingar, Jeff Ratledge and Stephanie McNeal were present. Thirty-six public citizens were present.

Purpose of meeting is to consider the approval of Special Land Use Permit PL 19-001 for the purpose of a restaurant and brew pub in an A-2 district on parcel #5411-021-002-500 located at 8701 90th Avenue. Applicant is Bruce Vergote. The Morton Township Planning Commission made their recommendation to the township board to approve this Special Land Use Permit at their meeting that took place on March 19, 2019.

Motion to approve Special Use Permit PL 19-001 for Bruce Vergote Parcel Number 11-021-002-500 for A-2 used for restaurant and brew pub by J. Ratledge second by Y. Bellingar.

Discussion included the following comments:

Dennis Scheiderer commented that he fully supports the new brewpub and has not heard any negative comments about the new pub.

Lee Terrill commented that he as well fully supports the brewpub and the township should allow the pub to operate.

Joe Invante, attorney for Bruce and Vicky Vergote, gave an update to the status of the liquor license for the brewpub. The license was approved on April 24, 2019 is a Class C and brewpub license as well as a SDM permit.

Lynee L. Wells, AICP, Aligned Planning, LLC presented a document outlining the history of the subject site, the process of approving a special land use permit, a review of the history and process as well as recommendations for moving forward.

Attorney Gavin McClintic asked that the memorandum submitted by Ms. Wells be entered as part of the record of the special land use application. McClintic stated that the new application for special land use is contrary to the current special land use permit. He also stated it should be considered in the approval process that there is a youth camp and county park next to the site as well as a nursing home on the adjacent property.

Additional comments from citizens in attendance included:

Royal View is not a nursing home. It is an assisted living facility.

The brewpub will be a welcome addition to the community.

The community should be thankful that the Vergote's are taking on this venture. It will clean the deteriorating previous business and will make a nice addition to our community.

This parcel is an agricultural site and should not be granted a special use permit. Allowing a business to serve alcohol at that site goes against the township's master plan.

A neighbor on Wood Street indicated that she was not comfortable with the brewpub operating at that location because she has small children and is concerned about patrons from the brewpub.

Mr. Vergote stated that they will be installing a fence along the property line between the pub and the residents of Wood Street. There will not be beer byproducts going into the drainage. Some byproduct will be used for flour and the other will be sold to the Amish for their cattle. He also stated that the putt-putt golf course is being rejuvenated.

Roll call vote: Ratledge, yes; Bellingar, yes; Wheeler, yes; Wolfe, yes; McNeal, yes. Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie McNeal