

**MORTON TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – September 16, 2020**



Call to Order at 6:30 P.M. by Vice Chairman- Dennis Morawa
Pledge of Allegiance by all
Members Present: Dennis Morawa, Jeff Ratledge, Steve Brandt
Members Absent: Larry Lenon, Lisa Thompson
Others Present: Fritz Pins- Zoning Administrator, Vicky Esch- Recording Secretary
List of Public present: None

Approval of Minutes from August 19, 2020, Regular Meeting / Public Hearing

Motion by: Steve Brandt

To approve the August 19, 2020 Regular Meeting / Public Hearing minutes as presented.

2nd by: Jeff Ratledge

Vote: 3 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent Motion Carried

New Business

A. Elect new chairman to replace Alan Sackett.

Jeff Ratledge welcomed Steve Brandt as the newest member to the planning commission. The township board voted on his appointment at their last meeting. He also commented that they discussed the need for the commission to appoint a new chairman. Dennis Morawa has agreed to resign as the chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals so that he can fulfil the role of chairman of the Planning Commission. He cannot serve as chairman on both.

Motion by: Jeff Ratledge

To appoint Dennis Morawa, Chairman of the Planning Commission.

2nd by: Steve Brandt

Vote: 3 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent Motion Carried

With Dennis’s appointment as chairman, a new vice-chairman will have to be appointed to replace Dennis.

Motion by: Jeff Ratledge

To appoint Steve Brandt, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission, to replace Dennis Morawa.

2nd by: Dennis Morawa

Vote: 3 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent Motion Carried

Old Business

A. Pumphouse ordinance update.

Fritz Pins commented that he had looked at other zoning ordinances and presented a paragraph for the commission members to review that he thought looked best. The intent is to keep the addition of pumphouses from being abused.

For review to be added to Section 5.14 Storage Buildings:

Pumphouses are allowed only for that purpose. Pumphouse may be less than 50 feet to the waterfront and must be on the owner’s property. Pumphouse must be as small as possible to cover pump and must use colors or materials that blend with the environment. The maximum dimensions are 3 feet high at the highest point, 3 feet wide and 3 feet deep.

Discussion points by the commission members:

- Not stipulating how far from the edge of the water?
- What about green belts, common areas?
- Should we include that the owner has to have association approval for green spaces?
- Zoning permit will be required.
- If they can't make the 3 feet size requirement, could they go larger?

Fritz will review and add to the proposed ordinance addition and bring back to the commission members at the next meeting.

Reports – Building & Zoning Department (Fritz Pins)

- Village properties are continuing to be cleaned up. Progress is being made.
- 13 new building permits issued last month. Two of them are for new homes.

Reports – Board of Trustees (Jeff Ratledge)

- Township Board approved the recommendation from the Planning Commission to rezone the two parcels from C-2 to C-3. There were residents who attended the meeting who were not in favor of the change.
- Discussed the addition of an “alternate” to the planning commission. The person would be someone who is willing to attend the monthly meetings and participate in available training workshops/webinars so that when a position is open on the board, they will be ready to step in.
- A letter was sent to the county regarding the county-wide gypsy moth problem. No response as of yet.
- Jeff is working on putting together a plan to present to the board of trustees that would involve moving the clean-up day to be held at the recycling center instead of in the village.
- Township was approached by Mecosta County to approve the proclamation of “Mecosta County Giving Day” to be held on December 2.

Reports – Village of Mecosta (Larry Lenon)

No Report

Correspondence - None

Adjourn Regular Meeting

Motion by: Dennis Morawa

To Adjourn regular meeting

2nd by: Steve Brandt

Vote: 3 Ayes 0 Nays 2 Absent Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vicky Esch

Vicky Esch, Recording Secretary