

**MORTON TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – October 21, 2020**



Call to Order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman- Dennis Morawa
Pledge of Allegiance by all
Members Present: Dennis Morawa, Jeff Ratledge, Steve Brandt, Larry Lenon
Members Absent: Lisa Thompson
Others Present: Vicky Esch- Recording Secretary
List of Public present: Mark Klumpp- Supervisor, Bob Doerr

Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2020, Regular Meeting / Public Hearing
Motion by: Steve Brandt
To approve the September 16, 2020 Regular Meeting / Public Hearing minutes as presented.
2nd by: Jeff Ratledge
Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent Motion Carried

New Business

A. PS20-005, Sign Installation Permit application not approved.
Chairman Dennis Morawa reviewed the facts for the sign application:
Applicant: PBE; Address: 8529 100th Avenue, Stanwood.
One sided sign to replace current sign on parcel #5411-021-004-000, located at 9568 Buchanan Rd.

Dennis read from the bottom of the sign installation permit application the section that states “Consideration for sign size increase for commercial and agricultural zoned areas with buildings greater than 12,000 SF must be submitted and approved by the Planning Commission per the Morton Township Zoning Ordinance and stated the following:

- There are no buildings on the parcel.
- The Planning Commission should not be handling this matter, but that zoning should.

He gave the following examples to show who should be handling such a matter:

- Planning Commission example: Meeting of Sept. 19, 2019, sign application for Lakeside Motor Sports. Sign for the new building over 12,000 sf. Approved by the Planning Commission.
- Zoning Board of Appeals example: Appeal on June 24, 2019, new sign larger than ordinance allows. Appeal request was approved.

Dennis commented that he wanted to clarify by giving the examples and stating the information listed on the bottom of the sign application permit to show that if the applicant seeks relief on the signage it will have to go the Zoning Board of Appeals, not the Planning Commission.

Bob Doerr (applicant) questioned why he was told to come to the Planning Commission. Dennis replied that he did not know why it was referred to the commission by Fritz Pins, it should not have been. Dennis also read from a letter to the commission members from Fritz regarding why the sign application was denied.

Old Business

A. Pumphouse ordinance update.

Dennis read the updated proposed ordinance language from Fritz Pins with the suggested changes from the meeting of September 16, 2020.

Discussion by the commission members included questioning the language added that approval is needed to cross any green space or community property from the governing body before a zoning permit is issued.

Jeff Ratledge questioned if we should add language to our zoning ordinance at the beginning to state that if approval is needed from a governing body (association) to cross property owned by it, that written approval must be received before a permit will be issued.

The commission members agreed that they would table any further discussion on proposed changes to the zoning ordinance until a new zoning administrator has been hired.

Remarks from the public

Supervisor Mark Klumpp commented that he appreciated the work that the Planning Commission does.

He also responded to their question regarding a replacement for Fritz Pins, that interviews will be held for two applicants next week.

Reports – Building & Zoning Department (no report)

Reports – Board of Trustees (Jeff Ratledge)

- Recreation committee would like the township to put together an ordinance to not allow motorized vehicles on the bike path owned by the township. The path has had crushed limestone put on it.
- Approved \$12,000 for gypsy moth infestation within the township. A survey to see where the infestation is, how bad, and what it would cost should be completed in November.

Reports – Village of Mecosta (Larry Lenon)

- There will be changes to the village board after the election. There are two candidates running for president, but no one running for clerk or treasurer.

Correspondence – None

Adjourn Regular Meeting

Motion by: Jeff Ratledge

To Adjourn regular meeting

2nd by: Larry Lenon

Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vicky Esch

Vicky Esch, Recording Secretary