

**MORTON TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – May 19, 2021**



Call to Order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman- Dennis Morawa

Pledge of Allegiance by all

Members Present: Dennis Morawa, Jeff Ratledge, Lisa Thompson, Steve Brandt

Members Absent: Larry Lenon, Rich Davis – Zoning Administrator

Others Present: Vicky Esch- Recording Secretary

List of Public present: Steve Stratton - Intern

Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2021, Regular Meeting

Motion by: Jeff Ratledge

To approve the March 14, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

2nd by: Steve Brandt

Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent Motion Carried

New Business

A. Introduction of Steve Stratton

Jeff Ratledge introduced Steve Stratton who has agreed to be an intern in training for the Planning Commission. As there are not alternates allowed on the planning commission, the goal of having an intern is for that person to attend the meetings and training sessions to prepare them to step into an open position when it is available.

B. Zoning Ordinance Discussion - Sign Ordinance

Jeff Ratledge opened the discussion by sharing with the commission members a situation that had been brought to his attention where trailers that advertise a business were told they are not allowed to be parked within the township just for that purpose. He expressed concern that the ordinance is confusing as to what is allowed and what is not according to:

Section 7.3 #4 Sign Prohibitions

H. Any vehicle (including trailers) which has the primary function of acting as a sign, shall not be permitted.

Discussion Points:

- If a trailer is moved to a storage facility which has a fenced in area designated for such storage and the trailer is positioned to face the road where the advertising is visible to passing traffic, does the township have the right to tell the owner of the storage facility where such trailers can and cannot be parked within his fenced area when the owner of the trailer is paying to have it stored there?
- If parked within a legitimate area designated for storage, shouldn't it be allowed?
- Need to consider, what is the primary function of the trailer: being used as a sign or to conduct a business.
- If allowed, do we only allow to be parked on commercial zoned property?
- Does the ordinance need an addition to "H" to clarify what is / is not permitted?

Chairman, Dennis Morawa, asked the commission members to come back to the next meeting with suggested text additions to the ordinance.

The discussion of variances will be added to the agenda for the next meeting due to the absence of the ordinance control manager.

Old Business

None

Comments by citizens in attendance: No citizens in attendance

Reports – Building Department (Rich Davis)

- No Reports

Reports – Board of Trustees (Jeff Ratledge)

- Gypsy moth problem: School Section Lake is still collecting signatures.
- Recycling barn project is proceeding. The building is up. In coming weeks cement will be poured and electrical work completed. Doors are not expected to arrive until July.

Reports – Other

- No other reports.

Correspondence: None

Adjourn Regular Meeting

Motion by: Jeff Ratledge

To Adjourn regular meeting

2nd by: Steve Brandt

Vote: 4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vicky Esch

Vicky Esch, Recording Secretary