****

**MORTON TOWNSHIP**

**PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING – MAY 18, 2022**

1. Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Steve Brandt, Jeff Cross, Larry Lenon and Jeff Ratledge were present. Lisa Thompson was absent.

Also present was Cory Zandstra, Morton Township Building Official/Zoning Administrator

2. Approval of Minutes from April 20, 2022, Regular Meeting

Motion by Jeff Cross, second by Jeff Ratledge. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

3. New Business

A. Agricultural Building Permits: Cory Zandstra reported that he has been speaking with our assessor, Seth Lattimore, about Agricultural Building Permits. Their concerns are that there is no paper trail when an agricultural building is constructed. Zandstra requests that proposed agricultural projects need to fill out permit applications so there is a record of a building being constructed. A site visit would also be required one year after the permit is pulled. This would note that there is a building on the property. Currently there is an affidavit that is required noting that a building was built but does not require a site visit to confirm that the building is being used for agricultural purposed. Agricultural building’s purposes need to fall under Public Act 230 indicating use of the building.

Planning Commission discussion included how permitting would work and what the benefits would be to requiring a permit. The commission is going to continue discussion of proposed permits at next month’s meeting.

4. Old Business

A. Roadside Stands: Cory Zandstra proposed additional language to our current zoning ordinance regarding

roadside stands. Language to add is “roadside stands must have ample parking for patrons, if ample

parking is not met; roadside stands are not permitted. No parking in the road right-of-way.”

**Motion to schedule public hearing to amend language in zoning ordinance regarding roadside**

**stands by Jeff Cross, second by Steve Brandt. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.**

**Motion to schedule public hearing to potentially amend agricultural building requirements by Jeff**

**Ratledge, second by Larry Lenon. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.**

5. Remarks from citizens in attendance.

No citizens in attendance.

6. Reports

A. Building/Zoning Department (Cory Zandstra): Processed demo permit today for the Blue Lake Tavern

to be taken down. Demo to begin on Monday. Carriage Lane now has three cars in their yard.

B. Township Board (Jeff Ratledge): Annual clean up day was a success. Filled four compacting trucks and four and a half 40-yard dumpsters. 240 vehicles went through. Asked the commission to consider changing the time of the meeting. Steve Stratton is moving so he will no longer be the PC alternate.

C. Other: Jeff Cross suggested that there is a process established for updating the Master Plan.

Jeff Ratledge indicated that the areas that have been designated for a gentleman’s club are sold. New

area should be designated.

7. Correspondence

8. Adjourn Regular Meeting Motion by Jeff Ratledge, second by Jeff Cross at 7:52 pm. 4 ayes, 0 nays. Motion

carried.

*Public Comments are encouraged. For the benefit of the Recording Secretary taking the minutes and to conduct an orderly meeting with maximum participation, please stand to be recognized by the chair, speak to be heard, state your name, address and make your comments. Public Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.*