

Bridgewater Township Planning Commission Minutes - Approved

I. 14-Mar-16 meeting called to order 7:09 P.M. by Dave Horney

II. Roll Call

Cal Messing            Dave Horney            Mark Iwanicki  
Ron Smith              Tom Wharam

III. Citizen Participation

- Mackenzie Poet, representing Karen Poet handed out material re: a request for chickens in the hamlet.
- The packet contained permits from local municipalities

IV. Review and Approve Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda as presented – Ron Smith
- Second to motion – Cal Messing
- Vote – unanimous

V. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from 8-Feb-16 as presented – Ron Smith
- Second to motion - Cal Messing
- Vote – unanimous

VI. Public Hearings

- None

VII. Old Business

A. GSM Permit

- The GS Materials permit application and variance were approved by the board
- Cal Messing will arrange a tour of the GSM gravel pit for all interested parties
- Ron Smith will work on the updates that need to be made to Ordinance 59

VIII. New Business

A. Keeping farm animals in the hamlet

- The current zoning does not allow any farm animals in non-agricultural areas
- Rodney Nanney talked about future neighbors possibly not liking the animals
- Rodney Nanney said that maybe we could have them on unplatted lots, which would be the majority of hamlet but exclude the condos
- One distinction between pets and farm animals is if the animal is kept indoors or outdoors
- Rodney Nanney suggested that there should some kind of review, i.e. the number of feet to neighbors house or property line, need a zoning permit to see the setbacks
- Mark Iwanicki talked about no free range chickens (the chickens must be constrained by a fence) due to the safety issues and no roosters due to the noise
- Rodney Nanney talked about a zoning compliance permit with a plan (a simple drawing) and a permit to help protect the owner from potential disagreements with neighbors
- Ron Smith said the township could wave the permit fees
- Dave Horney said no slaughtering, Rodney Nanney said that the lots are large enough so this may not be an issue

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- Rodney Nanney said we should also include bees, maybe have a list of the animals that are allowed
- Horses used to be in the ordinance, formerly with a special use permit
- Rodney Nanney will put together a sample ordinance for female chickens, quail and guineahen as well as bees
- Rodney Nanney explained to Mackenzie that, if all goes well, there will be an informal review next month, a public hearing the following month, then it would go before the township board for a vote. This would be a minimum of 3 months

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IX. Communications

A. Report from Zoning Administrator – Rodney Nanney

- A report was provided and is on record

B. Report on 3-Mar-16 Board of Trustees meeting – Ron Smith

- A report was provided and is on record
- Ron Smith may have to call a special meeting to resolve budget issues

X. Informational Items

- 19-Apr-16 meeting for Bemis Rd. project

XI. Public Comment

- None

XII. Adjournment

- Next planning commission meeting is 11-Apr-16 at 7:00 P.M.
- Motion to adjourn – Dave Horney
- Second to motion – Cal Messing
- Vote – unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

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Meeting date: 14-Mar-16