

13 February 2018 Working Planning Commission Minutes

Royalton Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

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13 February 2018

Approved

6:30 p.m., 13 February 2018, Chair Leslie Orvis convened the Royalton Township working planning commission meeting with members Jeff Schlaeger, Priscilla Schneider, Duane Swanson, and Gary Valvoda present. Supervisors Wayne Olson and Marshall Pearson also attended.

Attendees discussed the drafts of letters notifying residents whose septic systems have been deemed noncompliant. First and second notices regarding systems deemed noncompliant because of an imminent health threat were drafted. Clerk Swanson was authorized to draft letters in a similar vein for those whose systems failed during a point of sale inspection or failed to protect groundwater, for review at the next commission meeting.

Attendees then discussed the draft of a "junk" letter to town residents. By consensus, it was determined to delete duplicate references to excessive amounts of vehicles and to delete references specifically inviting residents to join the road inspection tour. Residents are still welcome to follow the road inspection. A copy of the current draft shall be part of these minutes.

Clerk Swanson noted that absentee ballots have been delivered to the township and that absentee voting is now available.

Supervisor Pearson distributed an updated spreadsheet detailing costs of various possible elements of a playground grouping. Costs ranged from roughly \$18,000 to \$27,000 depending on the elements. A playground of approximately 30' x 80' is envisioned. Discussion centered on the possible elimination of a merry-go-round (approximately \$2,000) and its replacement with a ladder feature (\$600). The estimates include rubberific border timbers and wood mulch. Attendees discussed the benefits of having a company supervisor onsite during construction at a cost of approximately \$1,500. The commission encouraged Supervisor Pearson to prepare a specific recommendation of elements with costs not to exceed \$30,000 that includes a ladder feature, cantilevered picnic table, and onsite supervisor.

At 8:25 p.m., the meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted:

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk/Member

Leslie Orvis, Chair/Member

Gary Valvoda, Member

Jeff Schlaeger, Member

Priscilla Schneider, Member

DRAFT of Junk Letter 2/13/2018

As many citizens of Royalton know, the township conducts a yearly road inspection each April. On these inspections, the township looks for many things, such as conditions of the roads/culverts maintained by the township, nonconforming buildings and structures covered by our zoning laws, blight, and unlicensed vehicles that are visible from the roads.

The town board regularly receives complaints about excessive numbers of unlicensed or disabled vehicles. Having broken down cars around contributes to what is known as neighborhood blight, which is just a fancy way of describing areas that are in a state of disrepair. When buyers, and local citizens for that matter, drive through neighborhoods looking for a home, seeing broken down cars is usually just the outward manifestation of a neighborhood, and the homes within it, that have not been taken care of properly. This affects property values because these homes sell for less. These sales are then used in future appraisals, and one has a slow downward spiral of property values.

Again this April, the town board will be conducting its yearly road inspection with emphasis on unlicensed vehicles (see section 11, subd. 6, paragraph E, of the township's zoning ordinance).

This ordinance was first enacted in 1990 and updated in 2010; it limits unlicensed vehicles to no more than five, unless properly fenced or screened. The full ordinance is accessible on the township's website (www.royaltontownship.com).

Your township has invested many hundreds of thousands of your tax dollars over the years in maintaining the township. It wishes to encourage all residents to do their part in keeping the community in which they choose to live an inviting place. We encourage your participation.

Royalton Town Board