

9 January 2018 Working Planning Commission Minutes

Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

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9 January 2018

Approved

6:30 p.m., 9 January 2018, Chair Leslie Orvis convened the Royalton Township working planning commission meeting with members Priscilla Schneider, and Duane Swanson present. Supervisors Wayne Olson and Marshall Pearson also attended.

Supervisor Olson reported that he had talked with Dennis Nilsen about the turnaround on Eagle Lane and that Mr. Nilsen had given verbal permission for the town to mark trees and spaces for the proposed turnaround. Supervisor Olson had not talked with David LaTourelle.

Supervisor Olson then distributed a draft of a letter to residents regarding the junk ordinance. The commission extensively reviewed this draft and made numerous changes. Although intended to be an "upbeat" letter, members felt that it had to be worded specifically enough so that its intent is clear. Finally, the commission agreed that the letter should include an invitation for members of the public to accompany town officials on their annual road inspection, noting that it would likely be a six to eight hour ordeal and would require advance registration so that an appropriately-sized vehicle can be engaged. A copy of the current draft is attached to these minutes.

The commission then considered the possible installation of a playground near the town hall. Supervisor Pearson had studied catalogs of playground equipment and provided background data. Consensus seemed to be that a basic setup (slide with possible climbing apparatus, merry-go-round, and swings), along with picnic table(s) would be sufficient. Types of base, whether or not to enclose the playground, and insurance issues remain to be further studied. A suggested base budget of \$20,000 for equipment and \$10,000 for landscaping was suggested.

At 8: 35 p.m., the meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted:

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk/Member

Chair Member Leslie Orvis

Member Gary Valvoda

Member Jeff Schlaeger

Member Priscilla Schneider

DRAFT of Junk Letter 1/9/2018

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. Based on reports received by the board, Royalton citizens believe that excessive amounts of vehicles negatively impact our community by degrading land values, creating safety concerns, and causing blight and deterioration of the health, safety, and general welfare of the township.

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).

The 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. Anyone wishing to join the tour, please let the township office (320-396-2982) know by the 15th of March, so that we can rent a proper vehicle. If you plan to join us, please expect to spend at least six to eight hours on the tour.