

July 11, 2017 Working Planning Commission Minutes

Royalton Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

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11 July 2017 - Approved

6:40 p.m., 11 July 2017, the Royalton Township working planning commission meeting convened with Chair Leslie Orvis and members Priscilla Schneider, Duane Swanson, and Gary Valvoda present. Member Jeff Schlaeger was absent.

Member Valvoda updated the commission on the 5 July 2017 meeting of the Pine County Board of Adjustment (which he chairs) that had considered a variance request from Scott Ovick (Parcel ID #29.0003.000) for various structures and setbacks in the Shorelands District. The board ultimately approved the variance requests with certain conditions on some of the structures. Royalton Township chair Marshall Pearson attended the meeting and thanked the county for notifying Royalton about this request and offering the township the opportunity to provide input.

Chair Orvis noted that the town board had directed the commission to review the possibility of drafting a fence ordinance. Clerk Swanson provided members with copies of Linwood and Pokegama townships' fence ordinances. Members reviewed these as well as the extensive position paper on fences ("Understanding and Administering the Minnesota Fence Law") of the Minnesota Association of Townships. This paper notes the significant statutory role town supervisors perform as fence viewers. Commission members were also encouraged to review Minnesota Statutes Chap. 344, the state's fence law. General discussion followed, centering on town line fences (special laws apply), property line fences, and residential fences. Members wondered if there was a county fence ordinance. Commission members seemed in agreement that this issue was worthy of further information-gathering, leading to a possible draft ordinance for the board's review.

Chair Orvis then asked members to consider reviewing the zoning ordinance sections concerning dogs and kennels. In light of the issues presented at the last board meeting, the commission found that Royalton's ordinances appear to be sound and workable. Although details were sketchy, it appears that the specific issues presented at the board meeting have been resolved for the time being. Commission members strongly encouraged Zoning Administrator John Kemen and board members to monitor developments regarding this property.

Chair Orvis then called for discussion on possible written agreements with Nessel and Pokegama townships regarding jointly maintained town line roads. Commission members reviewed line-by-line the Minnesota Association of Townships' recommended "Agreement for the Division of Maintenance Responsibilities for a Town Line Road". Members noted that the current verbal agreements have been working well but that it would be desirable to have them formalized in writing, so that they do not rely only on memory. Members found portions of the model agreement to not be relevant to Royalton's situations, preferring the current alternate year maintenance policy rather than the recommended dividing the road into sections for which each town is responsible. It was assumed that a narration of the current policy could be substituted for the current recommended policy language. Although the town has no shared bridges, it does have shared culverts, so they should be mentioned in any policy. The commission agreed that a written agreement should be "until one of the parties notifies the other of its desire to alter" rather than one that is re-signed each year, thus eliminating additional paperwork. The commission concluded that it would continue to review and work on this issue unless directed by the board to stop.

At 8:50 p.m., the working meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted: Duane P. Swanson, Clerk/Member

Chair Member Leslie Orvis

Member Gary Valvoda

Member Jeff Schlaeger

Member Priscilla Schneider