

June 27, 2017 Planning Commission Minutes

Royalton Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

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27 June 2017

Approved

7:00 p.m., 27 June 2017, Chair Leslie Orvis called the Royalton Township planning commission regular meeting to order, with Members Jeff Schlaeger, Priscilla Schneider, Duane Swanson, and Gary Valvoda present.

Member Valvoda moved, Member Schlaeger seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Valvoda read the minutes of the commission meeting of 30 May 2017. Member Schlaeger moved, Member Valvoda seconded, to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Valvoda moved, Member Schneider seconded, to approve the minutes of the working planning commission meeting of 20 June 2017 as distributed. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Chair Orvis reported on the discussion at the working planning meeting regarding the blight and nuisance ordinance. He noted that the commission recommended not using the word "blight" because its common meaning did not refer to unsightly properties; instead he recommended the word "nuisance." The consensus of the commission was that Royalton's ordinance language was still useful.

New Business:

Nancy Dodd addressed the commission regarding the situation at 1386 Sherwood Street, Braham. She has one dog now and wants to downsize. She noted that she had applied for a

building permit for Royalton in Braham four times and had been told that "she could not afford it." She then purchased a home "down South" but does want to rebuild in Royalton. The existing mound system is ten years old. Chair Orvis asked Zoning Administrator John Kemen to update the board on this property and his discussion with the Animal Humane Society; they had requested information on Royalton's animal ordinance. Zoning Administrator Kemen noted that, at one point, 19 dogs had been reported on the property, that there are concerns about living on the property and the workability of the sewer system is in question. Deputy Clerk Roberta Folkestad had compiled a review of previous actions relating to this property and provided members with copies of that report. Chair Orvis moved, Member Valvoda seconded, to refer this issue to the board for action. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Orvis then noted that the working planning meeting had discussed the desirability of having written agreements covering the two town line roads in the township. The Minnesota Association of Townships strongly recommends having such understandings in writing. Chair Orvis moved, Member Schlaeger seconded, to recommend that the board direct the commission to draft such agreements. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Swanson updated the commission on the Pine County Board of Adjustment's upcoming hearing on Scott Ovick's request for variances in the shoreland district of Royalton Township (PID #29.0003.000, 12961 Pokegama Lake Road, Pine City). The county has offered Royalton the opportunity to review and comment on this request. This issue will be addressed by the board.

Chair Orvis reported on the working planning commission's discussion on a possible fence ordinance. Member Swanson moved, Member Valvoda seconded, to request board approval to study this issue and report back to the board.

Chair Orvis noted that a fence permit had been requested by Sheila Lande for the property at 3623 State Highway 70, Braham (PID #29.0241.000) and that this issue would be taken up by the board.

Chair Orvis set a working planning commission meeting for Tuesday, 11 July 2017 at 6:30 p.m. and noted that the public was welcome to attend. Agenda items will include, pending board direction, a town line road draft agreement and a potential fence ordinance.

Chair Orvis noted that the minor subdivision for Michael McGaffigan, Braham (PID #29.0221.000) had been approved after new perk tests had been done and the property inspected by Zoning Administrator Kemen and Pine County officials.

At 7:25 p.m., Chair Orvis moved, Member Schlaeger seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk

Leslie Orvis, Chair

Gary Valvoda, Member

Jeff Schlaeger, Member

Priscilla Schneider, Member