

August 25, 2020 Planning Commission Minutes

Royalton Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006

Email: royalton@royaltontownship.com Website: www.royaltontownship.com

25 August 2020

Approved

7:00 p.m., 25 August 2020, Chair Leslie Orvis called the Royalton Township regular planning commission meeting to order with Members Jeff Schlaeger, Priscilla Schneider, and Gary Valvoda and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Supervisor Marshall Pearson and Road Superintendent Dan Saumer also attended. Social distancing was observed.

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

Member Valvoda read the minutes of the 28 July 2020 regular commission meeting. Member Schneider moved, Member Valvoda seconded, to approve the minutes as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Schlaeger moved, Member Schneider seconded, to approve the minutes of the working commission meeting of 18 August 2020 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

The commission reviewed the wording of the town hall rental agreement; this version incorporates the changes made to the policy at the last board meeting. By consensus, the commission approved the version.

There was no information on the proposed Gross/McFerran land subdivision/easement. Chair Orvis asked that it be removed from future agendas.

The commission then discussed the possible abandonment of that portion of Riverbed Road west of Linden as requested by Mr. Michael Murphy. Clerk Swanson noted that permits had been issued for the addition to Mr. Murphy's residence and for the new garage. Road Superintendent Saumer noted that the township has not been grading or plowing this portion because of the difficulty of turning around and the presence of cement near the road bed. Chair Orvis opined that this issue is fraught with questions that will be reviewed at the next working commission meeting.

Chair Orvis then urged members to review the latest draft of a solar ordinance so that discussion can occur at the next working meeting.

Clerk Swanson called attention to the list of categories of levies used by Pine County's townships. As the commission discusses levies in the future, this may be useful.

New Business:

Chair Orvis called for discussion on the proposed chloride policy, stating that this draft incorporated changes made at the last commission and board meetings. Road Superintendent Saumer asked who would be negotiating with landowners and applicators. Chair Orvis pointed out that each project would have a point of contact person to be responsible; Clerk Swanson noted that the board retained final right to approve or refuse any proposed project. Clerk Swanson moved, Member Schlaeger seconded, to recommend approval of the policy to the board. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. William Cort was present to answer questions about his request to split two parcels that he had combined in 2014. He requested that this be approved without the normal survey that land splits require because the boundaries of the two new parcels would be unchanged from the former parcels. Clerk Swanson noted that he had received e-mail confirmation from Pine County that it would approve the split upon receipt of township approval. He recommended that the board detail why this request was approved and that it did not set a precedent for future land splits. Both parcels would continue to be legal parcels per the town ordinance. Member Schlaeger moved, Member Valvoda seconded, to recommend to the board the approval of this request, that affirmation be reported to Pine County, and that the minutes contain an explanation that this request does not establish a precedent. The motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Pearson asked for clarification of how the tracking of permit information from Building Inspector Marshall Lind was going. Clerk Swanson and Deputy Clerk Schneider explained that the process was working better, that regular information is being transmitted to the town office, and that the board will have to decide how to proceed when there is no response to Mr. Lind's letters noting that a permit is necessary.

Chair Orvis scheduled a working committee meeting for Tuesday, 15 September 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the town hall to discuss the potential abandonment of a portion of Riverbed Road and the solar energy ordinance.

FYI:

The next regular planning commission meeting is 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, 29 September 2020.

At 7:32 p.m., Clerk Swanson moved, Member Schlaeger seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk/Member

Leslie Orvis, Chair/Member

Jeff Schlaeger, Member

Priscilla Schneider, Member

Gary Valvoda, Member

#