

May 14, 2019 Planning Commission Working Minutes

Royalton Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

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4 May 2019

Approved

6:30 p.m., 14 May 2019, Chair Leslie Orvis convened the Royalton Township working planning commission meeting with members Jeff Schlaeger, Priscilla Schneider, Duane Swanson, and Gary Valvoda present. Septic Inspector Amy Thompson also attended.

Septic Inspector Thompson updated the commission on the situation at 1255 Royal Heights Lane, Braham. She had visited the property with representatives from Pine County. The existing septic system is in the jurisdiction of Royalton's zoning while the dwelling is in the shorelands jurisdiction of Pine County. Inspector Thompson shared photographs taken of the garbage and litter on the property, noting that parts of the septic system had been burned on top of the ground with unknown, but possible, damage to the system. It appeared to be an imminent threat to public health, with bottles of colored liquid found on the grounds. County officials neglected to pursue issues at this time. The property is being purchased via contract for deed. The commission reviewed the nuisance section of the ordinance and concluded that it appeared to cover this property. Members also reviewed the ordinance section on temporary dwellings and discussed the possibility of "red-tagging" the property. Discussions with Zoning Administrator John Kemen and more Pine County officials were recommended. Chair Orvis will follow up with Administrator Kemen and Pine County officials. Inspector Thompson will attend the May board meeting with an update.

Commission members reviewed the recent changes to the Pine County Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems ordinance noting that the township must adopt the changes within one year from April 2019. Changes include mitigation requirements for systems determined to be of imminent threat to public health, compliance criteria for holding tanks, and descriptions of when permits are required and not required. Members were asked to review the changes for recommendations to the board at the next meeting. Changes will require a public hearing. The township must adopt the changes or adopt language stronger than the recommended changes.

A general discussion about solar array systems noted that the ordinance did not address that issue. Clerk Swanson distributed the recently-approved solar ordinance of Lent Township in Chisago County. Member Valvoda showed the Local Government Solar Toolkit distributed at one of the county solar summits and suggested copies be shared with commission members (the clerk will prepare). He and Chair Orvis each attended. Issues include various types of systems and where they may be placed (especially relating to shorelands), accessory systems, and full solar gardens as a commercial enterprise. Members were encouraged to be prepared to discuss these issues at the next commission meeting and seek direction from the board.

At 8:20 p.m., the meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted:

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk/Member

Leslie Orvis, Chair/Member

Jeff Schlaeger, Member

Priscilla Schneider, Member

Gary Valvoda, Member

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