

October 8, 2019 Planning Commission Working Minutes

Royalton Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

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8 October 2019

Approved

6:30 p.m., 8 October 2019, Chair Leslie Orvis convened the Royalton Township working planning commission meeting with members Priscilla Schneider, Jeff Schlaeger, Duane Swanson, and Gary Valvoda present. Supervisor Wayne Olson also attended.

Chair Orvis declared the purpose of the meeting was to continue work on a proposed solar energy ordinance. Clerk Swanson noted that the 28 September draft distributed earlier included the tentative conclusions of earlier meetings regarding rooftop and ground mount personal systems. In the preparation of that draft, the absence of definitions was recognized. Definitions included in this draft were taken from the ordinance approved by Lent Township and need to be reviewed by the commission.

Substantial discussion related to these and other definitions, including the term "net metering" and the differences between the three types of systems: rooftop/ground mount, solar gardens, and solar farms. The consensus seemed to be that we did need to retain the three types of systems (small, medium, large) in the ordinance, although specific differences and what to term them were less clear. The solar array sizes in each system as they relate to acreages were also discussed, with those issues requiring more study.

Except for the shorelands zone, the entire township is zoned agricultural-residential. Does this issue need to be revisited as it relates to siting of the several types of solar energy systems?

Finally, the need for a comprehensive decommissioning plan as part of the interim use permits, especially for solar gardens and farms, was recognized. This likely would require some sort of bond or escrow account to ensure cleanup and recyclability.

At 8:15 p.m., Chair Orvis declared 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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