

September 10, 2019 Planning Commission Working Minutes

Royalton Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

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10 September 2019

Approved

6:30 p.m., 10 September 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.

The entire meeting was devoted to the discussion of a possible solar energy ordinance. The current ordinance (page 13) would consider solar installations as accessories requiring a building permit and subject to the specifications for accessory structure. However, specific requirements are lacking. The firm consensus of the commission is that a specific solar ordinance is a desirable and necessary addition to the zoning ordinance.

The commission reviewed the recently-approved Lent Township solar ordinance and concluded that it is a good model to start from. It details three specific categories: rooftop/ground mount installations essentially for personal or small business use that may include sell back of small amounts of excess electricity; solar garden installations of medium size that extend beyond personal use; and solar farms that are large commercial installations. Commission consensus was that a Royalton ordinance should cover all three types.

The Commission reviewed sections relating to rooftop/ground mount installations. Concerns were expressed about visual appearance and valuation issues. It was also concluded that the ordinance not address KW issues because that is difficult to monitor and does not generally affect anything but installation size which will already be covered. It was recommended that ground mount installations meet current Royalton ordinance setbacks. Clerk Swanson will draft language for this portion of the ordinance so that the commission can review it more formally.

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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