

Royalton Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes  
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21 June 2022  
Approved

6:34 p.m., 21 June 2022, Chair Leslie Orvis convened the Royalton Township working planning commission meeting with Members Jeff Schlaeger, Priscilla Schneider, Duane Swanson, and Gary Valvoda present. Zoning Administrator John Kemen, Septic Administrator Amy Thompson, and Deputy Clerk Andrea Anderson attended. Supervisor Marshall Pearson joined the meeting about 6:45 p.m., and Patrice and John DeGray arrived a bit later.

Chair Orvis opened the discussion with questions about non-permitted, impermanent structures. Zoning Administrator Kemen offered a suggestion that a possible solution might be to “un-adopt” the state building code and replace it with a system whereby a group of several individuals would review the site permit and conduct a plan review of the proposed structure to verify that it met quality and permanency standards. There would be no required inspections, but the township would have the option to inspect to determine that the intent of the site permit had been followed. He noted that the permit fee for such a process would have to be substantially higher than the current \$75.00. He also noted that this would require that the Code of Ordinances be amended.

Interwoven with the discussion on this proposal was the board’s directive that the commission review the permit workflow diagram and consider including timelines in which the applicant could expect action. Supervisor Pearson noted timelines should not begin until the application was complete, and the appropriate fee paid. Substantial discussion centered on what timelines were realistic because different factors may affect the schedule. The specific timelines likely should not appear on the public workflow diagram that would be posted on the website. The consensus of the meeting seemed to be that the commission should recommend to the board that the board approve the workflow diagram and authorize its publication.

Returning specifically to the impermanent structure discussion, consensus developed that the township should 1) work within the existing system for the time being, 2) that the commission and board should continue to study time frames associated with the workflow diagram, and 3) the commission would continue to study and review related issues and alternatives should the board direct the commission to do so. Specific complaints regarding the current implementation of the building code and its related fees should be forwarded to Supervisor Pearson who will discuss them with the township building official.

In other issues, Clerk Swanson updated the commission on hacking of the township’s website (now corrected), the Pine City Fire Department bill for 2023, and the repair by Genesis Wireless to the antenna that was damaged in the Memorial Day storm and resulted in the loss of internet capabilities at the town hall.

At 8:22 p.m., Chair Orvis concluded the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk/Member

Leslie Orvis, Chair/Member

Jeff Schlaeger, Member

Priscilla Schneider, Member

Gary Valvoda, Member