

Royalton Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
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15 November 2022
Approved

6:30 p.m., 15 November 2022, Chair Leslie Orvis convened the Royalton Township working planning commission meeting with Members Priscilla Schneider, Duane Swanson, and Gary Valvoda present. Septic Administrator Amy Thompson and Deputy Clerk Andrea Anderson also attended.

Chair Orvis updated the commission on his meeting with Pine County commissioners about enforcement of zoning ordinances. He reported that they questioned why Royalton was interested because jurisdiction of the Shoreland area rests with the county. Chair Orvis explained that the township has received numerous and continuing complaints about the lack of enforcement. Land and Resources Manager Caleb Anderson noted that the county had not received any complaints. He brought up aerial photographs of the Royal River developments which clearly showed that zoning restrictions were not being enforced. Chair Orvis bluntly told the county that it needed to enforce the regulations or return authority to the township. Specifically, PID 295098000 was reviewed at the meeting, with Chair Orvis noting that pieces of metal had been cut from this parcel and thrown onto a neighboring one. Human feces had also been thrown onto adjacent property. The commissioners agreed that such practices, as well as potential building and septic concerns, were violations of the existing county ordinances. Chair Orvis has another meeting scheduled with the commissioners to continue discussion.

The commission then reviewed Cole Newman's request for a minor subdivision of PID 290257000. Zoning Administrator John Kemen had reviewed an earlier certificate of survey and had informed Mr. Newman that it needed a PID number on the certificate, that the locations of the septic borings needed to be on the certificate, along with distances from the property lines. The original submission also included approval by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a driveway off State Highway 70 and soil boring logs for two sites on the parcel to be separated. After review, the commission noted that no PID existed on it, that the existing septic system on the remainder parcel was too close to the proposed property line, and that the distances of the soil boring sites may be inadequate. Septic Administrator Thompson noted that she would have to review the sites of the soil borings to determine their acceptability. Chair Orvis was delegated to discuss these issues with Administrator Kemen and determine how these concerns would be forwarded to Mr. Newman, noting that the new parcel must contain at least 10 acres and have a minimum road frontage of 330 feet.

The commission then considered the sign permit application of Chris DeGray, noting that a 4 x 8' sign was requested, the size of which exceeded the limits in the ordinance. The commission appeared supportive of the request but noted that a variance application would need to be filed with the setbacks from the property line (if any) included. Chair Orvis was provided with a copy of the variance application which needs to be filed with Board of Appeals (Town Board), which would decide whether a public hearing needed to be held on the request. Chair Orvis will take this issue to Administrator Kemen and determine a path forward.

Chair Orvis then noted that the nonpermanent structures discussion needed resolution. Clerk Swanson noted that draft language needs to be created to which the commission may respond. Chair Orvis and Administrator Kemen will discuss this issue as well.

LO____ JS____ PS____ DS____ GV____

At 8:30 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