

Royalton Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes  
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7 February 2023  
Approved

6:30 p.m., 7 February 2023, Chair Leslie Orvis convened the Royalton Township working planning commission meeting with Members Priscilla Schneider, Jeff Schlaeger, and Duane Swanson present in the meeting room and Gary Valvoda present via remote electronic means (Zoom). Supervisor Wayne Olson and John Graham also attended.

Clerk Swanson distributed copies of the Minnesota Statutes to which Member Valvoda had referenced at an earlier meeting. The commission reviewed the definition of agricultural buildings and spent a substantial amount of time reviewing the classes referenced. The classes are basically used for assessment purposes, but some are relevant for a clearer understanding of what constitutes an agricultural building in state law.

Clerk Swanson distributed copies of the compilation of parts from Rock Creek's accessory building ordinance that had been compiled by Zoning Administrator John Kemen and the accompanying draft of an accessory building permit. He noted that nothing from the previous analyses of Woodbury and Brainerd ordinances had been included at this time.

Discussion of the Rock Creek ordinance continued with a review of the definitions and comparisons to Royalton's existing ordinance definitions. Many were exact or similar. Members expressed approval of adding from "but not fur farms..." to "Agricultural Uses," for changing "Farm" from five to ten acres, and for substituting Royalton's definition for "Farming" and "Principal Use."

John Graham had to leave the meeting early. He had concerns regarding the septic systems on two properties. One parcel on Riverbed Road is supposed to have tanks installed this week. It is in the Shorelands District, and therefore the county had jurisdiction. The other was on State Highway 70 where an ice tower appeared on top of what may have been a septic mound. After studying online images, it appears that the tower was on a dirt pile and that the septic mound was located elsewhere on the property. At 7:15 p.m., Mr. Graham left the meeting.

The commission continued discussion, focusing on the size below which an accessory building permit was not needed. Suggestions were made that a minimum of 200 square feet be included; other members supported no limit, indicating that all structures should need a site permit. Determination of the impact on enforcing a zero limit was also discussed, and the matter remains unresolved at this point.

The commission agreed that section 8 of the Woodbury ordinance defining materials that would not be permitted was relevant and should be incorporated into a draft ordinance.

At 8:20 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