

Royalton Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
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18 July 2023
Approved

6:33 p.m., 18 July 2023, 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, Supervisor John Graham, Septic Administrator Amy Thompson, and Dale Heidelberg also attended.

Chair Orvis noted updated elements of the accessory building permit diagram. Discussion centered on what it should be called, more definitive wording in the various parts of the diagram, notation that a building/materials list is required, the need for a statement of who designed it (Planning Commission), the adding of contact information, and the understanding that a site permit application will accompany each permit. Chair Orvis will update the diagram for the next commission meeting.

Septic Administrator Thompson described the issues relating to Mitchell Thompson's septic design proposals for four of his six lots between Bears Ear and Oakwood. Would four separate systems clustered around the four corners where all parcels meet connected to a single mound (absorption field) work? That might be possible if all future parcel owners agree to a maintenance covenant. With such an arrangement, the systems may be placed closer to the property lines than would normally be allowed. Box mounds were discussed as a possible alternative. Zoning Administrator Kemen explained that he would recommend an in-house variance for the garage on one parcel. He will work with the owner on that issue.

Much discussion was held on the clean indoor air act and the town's no smoking policy. Member Valvoda read definitions from the law, which applies only to indoor areas and requires signage. There was no consensus on whether the entire town campus should be designated as a no smoking area. Discussion centered on possibly designating a smoking area at least 20 feet from the building and who would clean any receptacles. Chair Orvis will investigate possible signage and receptacles for the cigarette refuse and report back to the commission.

The commission recommended a "courtesy letter" to Jason Brouwer regarding the upcoming deadline for repair of his septic system.

The commission discussed the possibility of taking over permitting issues in the shorelands district. Chair Orvis noted that this would require substantial education on the requirements. Others suggested that the town begin by taking over just the septic inspections.

At 8:08 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