

Royalton Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
Email: royalton@royaltontownship.com-- Website: www.royaltontownship.com
29 August 2023
Approved

7:05 p.m., 29 August 2023, Chair Leslie Orvis called the Royalton Township regular planning commission meeting to order with Members Jeff Schlaeger, Priscilla Schneider, Gary Valvoda, and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Zoning Administrator John Kemen, Septic Administrator Amy Thompson, Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, Deputy Clerk Andrea Anderson, and members of the public also attended.

Clerk Swanson moved, Member Valvoda seconded, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Tom Madison. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Valvoda moved, Member Schneider seconded, to approve the minutes of the 25 July 2023 regular commission meeting, with the addition of the appropriate PID and property address in the second paragraph under New Business. The draft minutes were updated and the commission signed the updated version. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Valvoda moved, Member Schneider seconded, to approve the minutes of the working planning commission meeting of 8 August 2023 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

There were no updates on the short-term rental or campground ordinances. Chair Orvis distributed copies of two articles on the recently passed moratorium on sale of cannabis products (by the city of Pine City) and on the discussions of the county board on the same issue. He asked members to study them for further discussion at the next working meeting.

Zoning Administrator Kemen noted that he had had discussion with Daniel Smith about his unpermitted oversize sign at 110 Greeley Road, which was still standing. There were questions about where the right-of-way ended on this parcel. Administrator Kemen will discuss this issue with Pine County. Meanwhile, by consensus, the commission continued to recommend that the sign be removed or covered until proper permits have been granted.

The commission noted that Brian Eklund has expressed interest in purchasing the township gravel pit off Sage Drive. The commission endorsed continued discussions.

Richard Hultman was present to review his proposal to add 200' depth to the north side of PID 290315000 (4565 Clint Road) in order to accommodate future septic sites, if needed. Mr. Hultman owns both parcels. The commission noted that this was a nonconforming parcel (legal at the time it was created) and that, according to the zoning ordinance, the board has authority to approve updates to non-conforming parcels to make them less non-conforming. Clerk Swanson moved, Member Valvoda seconded, to recommend approval to the board of the boundary changes proposed by Mr. Hultman. The motion carried unanimously.

Joe Zappa was present to update the board on his proposals to establish a cannabis growing business. The state procedures are working slowly on cannabis implementation. Mr. Zappa asked if the board had any conditions or reservations on his doing an experiment this winter by growing hemp in the greenhouses. He would apply for a state license to do so and follow all state requirements. Chair Orvis replied that the town-

LO____ JS____ PS____ DS____ GV____

ship currently has no such regulations and that the commission will study this issue at its next working meeting.

Tom Madison was present to express his concerns about the materials that were being used in the reclamation of the land in Wayde Lerbs' mining pit. He contended that the materials used contained organic matters that would decompose and therefore did not meet the definition of clean fill as outlined in law and regulation. He distributed a sheet detailing his concerns.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Chair Orvis called the next working commission meeting for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, 19 September 2023.

FYI:

The next regular planning commission meeting is 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, 26 September 2023.

At 7:34 p.m., Clerk Swanson moved, Member Valvoda seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk/Member

Leslie Orvis, Chair/Member

Jeff Schlaeger, Member

Priscilla Schneider, Member

Gary Valvoda, Member