

Royalton Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes  
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006  
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17 October 2023  
Approved

6:35 p.m., 17 October 2023, Chair Leslie Orvis convened the Royalton Township working planning commission meeting with Members Jeff Schlaeger, Priscilla Schneider, Gary Valvoda, and Duane Swanson present. Deputy Clerk Andrea Anderson, Zoning Administrator John Kemen, and Septic Administrator Amy Thompson also attended.

Lars Teigan, representing Kevin McFerran, was present to discuss the status of township road T13 in section 7. Clerk Swanson distributed an affidavit from Mr. McFerran that he wishes the town chair and road supervisor to sign declaring, among other things, that road T13 as described in a town resolution from 1987 is a township road, that it has not been vacated, and that it would provide access to various parcels of land should he wish to sell them. Chair Orvis noted that this road was gated many years ago at the request of several landowners and that the gate remains there today. Clerk Swanson reported that said request was made in 1990, that only the landowners affected had keys, effectively making it a private drive. Mr. Teigan said that Mr. McFerran's concern was access to the parcels, not that the township would maintain the road. It is unclear if any easements or other documentation is contained in the abstracts or deeds to the affected parcels. After discussion, the consensus of the commission was that this is a question for legal counsel and that the board should authorize counsel to be consulted. Mr. Teigan then left the meeting.

Clerk Swanson then presented a draft sales agreement with Barth Construction for the purchase of the township grader. Supervisor John Graham and he had drafted it. The commission reviewed the draft and suggested that the blade and wing be specifically added to the list of materials being sold and that a statement be made that the packer and "V" plow are not included in the sale.

Clerk Swanson distributed a Citizen Complaint Form requesting town action regarding dogs running at large on Buffalo Road and Pokegama Lake Road. The complaint included a chronology of experiences, including instances of children who have been threatened by these dogs. The Pine County sheriff has received a report on these dogs. Clerk Swanson reported that he had talked with one of the complainants pointing her to the town ordinance relating to nuisance dogs and encouraging the complainant to come to the next town board meeting on 24 October 2023. Septic Administrator Thompson reported that her pant leg had been bitten by one of these dogs while inspecting the new septic system. Member Valvoda referenced Minnesota Statutes 347.04 as a good source of support for action. The commission recommended to the board that a letter be sent to the dogs' owners with a copy to the sheriff.

Chair Orvis distributed copies of Pine County's proposed ordinance 2023-40 regulating the use of cannabis and cannabis derived products in the county. Discussion followed whether the township should enact a similar ordinance or if the county's ordinance would be enforceable in the township. Discussion also centered on whether this ordinance would affect the proposal to grow hemp and cannabis; it was concluded that this ordinance only regulates use, not growing, of the product. Discussion then morphed into no smoking signs needed by the township to give notice and the possible purchase of containers for cigarette butts outside the town hall. Chair Orvis opined that such a policy should include all sorts of tobacco products.

LO\_\_\_\_ JS\_\_\_\_ PS\_\_\_\_ DS\_\_\_\_ GV\_\_\_\_

Clerk Swanson distributed a draft of an advertisement seeking employment of a backup grader operator. Members suggested additional wording to be considered by the board.

Clerk Swanson reported that he had received a request from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The MPCA had been contacted about dust emanating from Wayde Lerbs' pit and asked if the township would be able to investigate. Clerk Swanson noted that he had replied to the email stating that the township had investigated this issue for several months and had concluded that the conditions of the interim use permit were being followed. There has been no response from the MPCA. Chair Orvis requested that the 24 October board meeting revisit this issue and urged the board to approve a motion authorizing legal counsel involvement.

Chair Orvis reported that he would not be in attendance at the regular planning commission meeting on 24 October. By consensus, the commission recommended that the next working meeting be set for 14 November 2023.

At 8:10 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