

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

7:00 p.m., 24 October 2023, Member Gary Valvoda, acting as interim chair, called the Royalton Township regular planning commission meeting to order with Members Jeff Schlaeger, Priscilla Schneider, and Clerk Duane Swanson present and Chair Leslie Orvis absent. Septic Administrator Amy Thompson, Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, Deputy Clerk Andrea Anderson, and members of the public also attended.

Clerk Swanson moved, Member Schlaeger seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Schneider moved, Member Schlaeger seconded, to approve the minutes of the 26 September 2023 regular commission meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Schlaeger moved, Member Schneider seconded, to approve the minutes of the working planning commission meeting of 17 October 2023 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Clerk Swanson distributed copies of the city of Rock Creek's ordinance relating to short-term rental properties and requested that members review it for study at the next working meeting.

There was no discussion on a no smoking policy, the new cannabis law, or a proposed campground ordinance. In the absence of Zoning Administrator John Kemen, there was nothing to report on the conditional use permit request of Daniel Smith at 110 Greeley Road. No information had been received on the mobile home exchange on Royal River Road.

Clerk Swanson reported that the township had received an email from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency questioning if the township could investigate dust issues on Frost Drive. Clerk Swanson responded that the township had considerable discussion of this issue for several months and had concluded that the conditions of the interim use permit were being met. No further communication had been received. Following discussion at the working meeting, the commission discussed whether to recommend to the board that this issue be forwarded to legal counsel. By consensus, the commission decided that no action need be taken at this time.

New Business:

Kevin McFerran was present to explain his request that the board sign an affidavit stating that Road T13 in section 7, as identified in the 1987 resolution recording the town's roads, is still a town road, that it has not been vacated, and that it has not been maintained. Mr. McFerran stated that this road is currently gated and that he is not requesting that it be upgraded or enhanced but that he wants assurance that the road still provides access to parcels to the south and east. After discussion, Clerk Swanson moved, Member Schneider seconded, to recommend to the board that legal counsel be consulted about the issue before signing the affidavit. Mr. McFerran concurred with this plan and stated that it was his intention that any maintenance on the road would be done by the landowners.

The commission reviewed a citizen's written complaint about dogs running loose in the vicinity of Buffalo and Pokegama Lake roads, allegedly terrorizing students waiting for the school bus. By consensus, this issue was forwarded to the board with a recommendation that action be taken to address the complainant's

LO____ JS____ PS____ DS____ GV____

concerns.

Clerk Swanson distributed examples of containers that could be placed outside the town hall to collect cigarette butts, noting that this issue had been discussed repeatedly over the last several meetings. Member Schlaeger moved, Member Valvoda seconded, to recommend to the board that one container be purchased. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Swanson noted that the township had received an email from a Minnesota Association of Townships' attorney noting that the town had authority to approve an ordinance establishing an administrative citation program that would issue fines for violations of town ordinances like septic issues, zoning, blight, etc. He distributed the city of Rock Creek's ordinance and related implementing papers and asked that members study them prior to the next working meeting.

Interim Chair Valvoda called the next working commission meeting for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, 14 November 2023.

FYI:

The next regular planning commission meeting is 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, 28 November 2023. ***[NOTE that the board subsequently changed the date to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, 21 November 2023.]***

At 7:24 p.m., Clerk Swanson moved, Member Schlaeger seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk/Member

Gary Valvoda, Interim Chair/Member

Jeff Schlaeger, Member

Priscilla Schneider, Member

Leslie Orvis, Chair/Member