

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

6:30 p.m., 14 November 2023, Chair Leslie Orvis convened the Royalton Township working planning commission meeting with Members Jeff Schlaeger, Priscilla Schneider, Gary Valvoda, and Duane Swanson present. Septic Administrator Amy Thompson and Supervisor John Graham also attended.

Kevin McFerran was present to discuss the situation regarding road T-13. Clerk Swanson reported that Board Chair Marshall Pearson and he had met with legal counsel and that counsel was reviewing the proposed affidavit along with data supplied from the township records (data already shared with Mr. McFerran). After review, counsel will be issuing a report to the township. Mr. McFerran stated his continued concern that although a road, he was not interested in having the road maintained by the township, only that it remained a legal path to properties further south and east. He offered to send photographs of the current condition of the gated road (which have been received since the meeting).

Supervisor Graham reported that he had met personally with the owner of the dogs about which complaints have been received and that the owners noted that were trying to train the dogs into remaining on their property. Supervisor Graham also had left a voice message with the complainant, which has not been returned.

Chair Orvis called for discussion about the draft position description for the secondary road operator. Clerk Swanson noted that this should be finalized now that Stephen Belland had been hired into the position. After discussion, it was recommended to add "Buildings and grounds maintenance duties as assigned" to the list of duties.

Chair Orvis then opined about the lack of movement on removal of the unpermitted sign at 110 Greeley Road. He will talk with Zoning Administrator John Kemen about the next steps.

It was decided to wait with consideration of the short-term vacation rental ordinance discussion until the county has a final ordinance in place.

The commission discussed the concept of administrative citations as a potential way to gain compliance with town ordinances. Septic Administrator Thompson reviewed the positive impact this form of ordinance has had for the city of Rock Creek. Clerk Swanson distributed an email from Madeline Cash, attorney for the Minnesota Association of Townships, noting that townships had the authority to establish administrative citations although very specific procedures had to be followed. Clerk Swanson had broached this issue with town legal counsel who noted that this procedure has worked well in cities but that he had no experience with it in townships. By consensus, the commission encouraged further study recognizing that this may be beneficial to Royalton Township.

Chair Orvis related his discussion with Dawn Olson of the Braham Bus Company about the difficulty of the turnaround at the end of Royal Heights Lane. Clerk Swanson distributed a map from Beacon showing the location of the existing "T" turnaround. Supervisor Graham offered to do an onsite inspection to determine the condition and specific location of the existing turnaround and report back to the commission.

LO____ JS____ PS____ DS____ GV____

Chair Orvis also noted that bus issues relate to the intersection of Bluebell Road and Royal River Road. Because that location does not involve a town road (Royalton's responsibility for Bluebell ends at the intersection with Royal Woods Road), this concern will have to be taken to the residents involved.

Clerk Swanson noted that a question had been received about construction at 9879 Bears Ear Road and whether that construction had a building permit. Clerk Swanson confirmed that no building permit existed. Supervisor Schlaeger and Septic Administrator Thompson confirmed that the construction was repair of a damaged roof from a fallen tree. The consensus of the commission was that this repair did not require a building permit.

Members and Supervisor Graham then participated in a discussion about the need for an upgraded snowplow truck. Supervisor Graham had located a 2009 tandem axle dump truck with wing that is for sale for \$80,000. It has 170,000 miles on it. Commission members expressed interest in having Supervisor Graham conduct an onsite inspection to determine its suitability for the township. Discussion then centered on whether to retain or dispose of the existing township truck. With the employment of a secondary operator, there may be some benefit to having two trucks available to remove snow more quickly.

Clerk Swanson updated the commission on the status of the FEMA grant requests, noting that the Raspberry Road culvert project had been approved by FEMA, that the Grasston Court and township-wide gravel roads projects had been submitted, and that the Bluebell Road project was still in draft form.

At 8:04 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