

Royalton Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
Email: royalton@royaltontownship.com-- Website: www.royaltontownship.com
26 March 2024
Approved

7:05 p.m., 26 March 2024, Chair Leslie Orvis called the Royalton Township regular planning commission meeting to order with Members John Graham, Priscilla Schneider, and Clerk Duane Swanson present in the meeting room and Gary Valvoda present via remote visual and audible electronic means. Septic Administrator Amy Thompson, Road Superintendent Dan Saumer, Supervisors Pete Belland and Jeff Schlaeger, and members of the public also attended.

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

At the request of Chair Orvis, approval of the minutes of the 4 March 2024 commission meeting was put on hold until the working meeting minutes of 20 February were approved.

Member Schneider moved, Member Valvoda seconded, to approve the minutes of the working commission meeting of 19 March 2024 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Chair Orvis called for discussion about the draft working commission minutes of 20 February 2024. Clerk Swanson reported that changing the words “either clarify or minimize” to “eliminate” was acceptable, leaving the last sentence of paragraph three to read: “This installation would eliminate the accusations of missing supplies and files, and damage to the town hall.” Regarding the mounting of a camera in the file room, Clerk Swanson recommended that individuals not be named in the minutes as requested; Chair Orvis polled members of the commission resulting in a majority consensus that names remain out of the minutes. Clerk Swanson will revise the draft minutes in accordance with these directives.

Chair Orvis then called for further review of the administrative citation ordinance draft that had been agreed to at the working meeting. Commission members and members of the audience raised concerns about the specifics of the draft citing the potential for intrusive actions toward residents, the possibility of discrimination against certain residents, the definition of citations to statutes and Rules of Evidence, and the compounding of fees potentially resulting in large costs to residents. This ordinance would require a significant amount of staff time to administer. Examples were cited of neighboring jurisdictions that experienced a large backlog of unresolved cases that has been quickly eliminated when the possibility of administrative fines were levied. It was noted that the town board remains the final arbiter of what fines would be levied for individual cases. Chair Orvis concluded the discussion by noting that the next working meeting of the commission will continue discussion of the draft ordinance.

There were no updates on the proposed ordinances governing short-term rentals or campgrounds.

Chair Orvis set the next working planning commission meeting for Tuesday, 9 April 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

FYI:

The next regular planning commission meeting will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, 30 April 2024.

At 7:30 p.m., Chair Orvis moved, Clerk Swanson seconded, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk/Member

Leslie Orvis, Chair/Member

John Graham, Member

Priscilla Schneider, Member

Gary Valvoda, Member