

**MINUTES
OF
ROYALTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
May 28, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006**

Chair Les Orvis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were Gary Valvoda, John Graham, and Priscilla Schneider. Also present were Zoning Administrator John Kemen, Septic Inspector Amy Thompson, and members of the public.

Motion by Member Schneider to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Member Graham. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Member Valvoda to approve the Minutes of the April 30, 2024 regular commission meeting. Second by Member Graham. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Member Valvoda to approve the Minutes of the May 13, 2024 working commission meeting. Second by Member Schneider. Motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Member Valvoda to approve the Minutes of the February 20, 2024 working commission meeting. Second by Member Schneider. Motion carried 4-0.

Administrative Citation Ordinance:

Chair Orvis stated two conflicting responses have been received from attorneys about the township enacting an Administrative Citation Ordinance. The commission will seek direction from the board for next steps.

Short Term Rentals Ordinance:

Chair Orvis noted Pine County has a draft short term rental ordinance; a copy of this ordinance will be forwarded to commission members to review.

Proposed Campground Ordinance:

Chair Orvis noted Pine County has a draft campground ordinance and will forward copies of this ordinance to commission members to review.

Industrial Cannabis Moratorium:

Chair Orvis commented that after reviewing various MN State Statutes, MN House File 4757, and talking with local officials, it appears the township has limited, if any, control over growing industrial cannabis since it is and will be regulated by the State. Commission members were asked to review MN Statute 342.12 to see what control, if any, the township may have over a licensed cannabis business.

Member Valvoda noted the township is zoned Ag/Residential and questioned whether a non-Ag business would be allowed under our zoning without a conditional use permit application and public hearing as other non-Ag businesses were prior to approval. Chair Orvis stated several non-Ag businesses are currently operating in the township. It was noted those operating after the enacting of the ordinance went through this process.

Member Valvoda questioned if industrial cannabis is considered agricultural stating Northern Hollow Winery was given Ag status at inception; he also noted the alcohol portion is controlled by the State. Member Valvoda contacted both the MN Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Pine/Kanabec FSA and asked if hemp, grapes, and marijuana are subsidized commodities. He was told hemp and grapes are both a subsidized commodity and are protected under declared disaster and loss and are insurable under crop insurance; marijuana is illegal, is not recognized as a commodity and thus not agricultural. Member Valvoda questioned if a public hearing or moratorium should be put in place to further control growing cannabis in the township.

Chair Orvis shared concerns about Temporary Moratorium flyers that were recently distributed in ECM and taped on personal mailboxes; after consulting with the St. Paul Post Office, he was told this activity is a punishable criminal offense and those involved should be mindful of this.

Member Valvoda cited Article VI, Clause 2, of the U.S. Constitution called the “Supremacy Clause”; “The Constitution and the laws of the United States shall be the supreme law of the land. The judges in every state their constitutions and laws be contrary notwithstanding.”

NEW BUSINESS

Elimination of MN State Building Code:

Zoning Administrator Kemen will forward information to commission members on how the township can prepare to handle future zoning without following and/or using the MN State Building Code.

Deputy Clerk and/or Assistant to the Town Clerk Duties:

Member Valvoda stated the Minnesota Association of Township (MAT) Manual does not address deputy clerk and/or assistant to town clerk duties. Minnesota Statutes, MAT, and other paperwork will be sent to township supervisors prior to the next board meeting for consideration of what action, if any, they wish to take.

Upcoming Meetings:

Chair Orvis set the next working planning commission meeting for Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

The next regular planning commission meeting will be Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

With no further business, at 7:32 p.m. Member Schneider motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second by Member Valvoda. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Les Orvis, Chair/Member

Gary Valvoda, Member

Priscilla Schneider, Member

John Graham, Supervisor/Member