

Conway Township Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2009

1. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag:

Chairperson Dennis Bowdoin called the Conway Township Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

2. Minutes from the March 9, 2009 Meeting:

Minutes from the 3/9/09 meeting were read. George Pushies made a motion to accept the minutes, Cindy Dickerson, 2nd. All in favor, motion passed. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11th, at 7:30 p.m.

3. Call To Public:

- a) None

4. Public Hearing:

- a) Chairperson Dennis Bowdoin opened the Public Hearing for the Final Revisions of Zoning Ordinance at 7:31 p.m.
- b) Mr. Yost expressed concern about the term "rural" needing a better definition or possibly using the word "agricultural." Much discussion was held, including what some of the nearby Township Planning Commissioners thought about the issue. All the Commissioners, along with Abby Cooper, Township Attorney, felt that there was no need to over-define the term, and that we would defer to the definition that was defined in dictionary. Mr. Yost mentioned that the Ordinance has four pages on what a "sign" means. Chairperson Bowdoin closed the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m.

5. Communications:

- a) Dennis Bowdoin reported on an article in the *Michigan Township News* stating that a survey shows that most Michigianians prefer rural living.
- b) Dennis also reported on an article in the same publication stating that 52% of Michigan citizenry that responded think that we have about the right amount of local government and that 33% think that we have too many.

6. Land Divisions:

- a) None

7. Old and New Business:

- a) Final changes to the Zoning Ordinance. All proposed revisions have been published; the Planning Commission held a Public hearing with one resident stating a concern on the word "rural." The next step it will go to the County for its review. The County has 30 days to review and then it will come back to the Township Board. The Planning Commission Secretary will need to send a proposal letter to the surrounding Townships. John Harless made a motion to accept the Final Zoning Ordinance revisions as proposed to the Township Board. George Pushies, 2nd. Six members in favor. Cindy Dickerson abstained. Motion passed.
- b) Update from Board:
 1. FEMA Flood Insurance Program. The issue is in the Feds' hands and hopefully we should hear something back in another 18 days.
 2. Members attending workshops. Board okayed funds for Londa Horton, John Harless, and Denny Sommer to attend upcoming workshops.
 3. Clean up date. May 16, 2009 will be this year's clean up date for the township. Scott Buell mentioned that he might be able to borrow a front-end loader from the Livingston County Road Commission for that day.

8. General Discussion:

- a) Dennis Bowdoin stated that the Commissioners should begin to think about possible future changes to the Master Plan. In addition, he indicated that the Commissioners should also be thinking about future revisions to the Zoning Ordinance, such as wind turbines for home and commercial use.
- b) Dennis Bowdoin stated that the Planning Commission must submit a year-end annual report to the Township Board.
- c) Supervisor Mike Rife indicated that there was a problem with ATVs and motor-cross activities this last weekend and whether or not the Zoning Noise Ordinance would cover this issue.

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- d) Supervisor Mike Rife also said that John Lassila is the newly appointed Deputy Supervisor for Conway Township.
- e) Supervisor Mike Rife said that John Lassila would take Bob Burke's vacant spot on the Emergency/Disaster Committee.

9. Adjournment:

- Four residents in attendance.
- Board Members present: Dennis Sommer, George Pushies, Cindy Dickerson, Dennis Bowdoin, Scott Buell, Londa Horton and John Harless. Supervisor Mike Rife and Board Member Kathy DeMarais were also present.
- A motion was made by George Pushies to adjourn, John Harless, 2nd. All in favor, motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Dennis Sommer