

SHERMAN TOWNSHIP ZONING/PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

February 11, 2020

Chairman Ford called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: Alan Ford, Roger Krontz, Vince Mifsud, Bill Pueschel, Frank Kalasky

Members Absent: None

Visitors: David Huber, Joe & Devin Heitger, Lisa Stroup, Marcy Emmendorfer, Darcy Crites, Tim Carls, Rod Borgert

Minutes: Motion by Mifsud, support by Pueschel, to approve the January 14, 2020 minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Agenda: Approved by consensus

Public Comment: See Old Business

Old Business:

Lisa Stroup (65504 N. M-66) informed the Commission that she has been invited to participate in a county task force to establish a dog kennel ordinance. The group would include township supervisors, a County Animal Control representative, a County Sheriff representative, plus others. The initial meeting of the group is schedule for March. The goal of the group is to provide a balanced ordinance that would take into consideration animal sanctuaries, foster homes, hobby breeders while guarding against mistreatment of any animals and addressing neighborhood complaints such as noise.

Ms. Stroup also provided the Commission with written information regarding 1) qualifications of care givers, 2) possible lot sizing for sanctuaries, 3) minimum square footage per animal requirements, 4) living conditions of the animals, 5) lot fencing, and 6) proximity to neighboring residences. Also discussed were the duration animals are kept in foster facilities, neutering of fostered animals, and number of litters per year, number of complaints per year, and premise IDs. Ms. Stroup reported that she had heard of two “puppy mills” that were recently closed in the county but she did not have specific details on either case. She is to keep the PC informed of task force progress.

Chairman Ford distributed copies of the January 23, 2020 proposed Sherman Township Master Land Use Plan. Secretary Kalasky had sent an electronic version to all PC members on January 23. A general discussion included the intent to limit commercial establishments to along the M-66 corridor and the renaming of the present Rural Preservation districts to Natural Features districts. This renaming better addresses the existing definition of this district which includes “areas of the township characterized by woodlands, wetlands, and other natural features.” (6.01). Hearing no other comments, the Commission members initiated the public comment period for the proposed Master Land Use Plan. Secretary Kalasky is to work with Lee Adams of the Southcentral Michigan Planning Council with the mandated distribution of the plan.

In other ordinance update business, Tim Carls (63044 Klinger Lake Road) recommended that the private road right of way be kept at sixty six (66) feet as opposed to the suggested forty (40) feet.

New Business:

Since the township hall will be used for the presidential primary election on March 10, 2020, the March Planning Commission meeting must be rescheduled. A motion was made by Ford, support by Mifsud, to reschedule the March PC meeting to Wednesday, March 11. Motion passed 5-0. Secretary Kalasky to make the necessary posting to the website and the bulletin board in front of the hall.

Adjourn: Motion by Mifsud, support by Krontz to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0 at 8:10 PM.

Next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 7:00 PM at the Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank J. Kalasky, P.E.
Secretary