

Marilla Township Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, August 18, 2021, 6:30

Opening: Welcome and pledge

Present: Mike Picchiotti, (chairperson), Jan Thomas, (secretary), Pat Ellis, (member), Janet Howes, (Township Bd. Rep.), and Vic Ellis, (Z.A.) Guests: Rob and Leslie Bacigalupi (Mission North), Laura Johnson

The minutes of the July 20, 2021 meeting were read and approved: Pat (1), Jan (2);passed

Old Business:

Rob and Leslie were present for the purpose of assisting the Commission with updating our Township Ordinances. They have entered a contract with the Township for this purpose. They have been reviewing the ordinances in order to help bring our ordinances into compliance with state regulations, look for ways to simplify language, to search for any discrepancies, and to clarify confusing issues.

The Township Board approved the draft letter to Township property owners that Rob prepared regarding the “Blight and Junk” portion of our ordinance at the last T. Board meeting. It was copied by the Board and sent out on Monday, August 16th.

Rob reviewed with us section 10.90 regarding new sign regulation that he has prepared that helps bring that section into compliance with state regulations. We determined that we would eliminate subsection A.(#4) in that section. One of the issues that our regulations do not cover is permitted sizes of signs. Each district will need different size regulations. It was determined that “barn signs” would be exempt from size requirements. In residential districts, subsection B. (#1), the permitted size will change to “up to 20 sq. ft. “Temporary Signs” section #4 will be deleted. #6 will also be deleted. “Prohibited Signs” (#12) will be clarified to read “roof mounted signs”. Rob will make some changes in section C regarding signs not requiring a permit. Any sign is permissible as long as it meets the requirements as stated in our ordinance. In #9, we changed to 12 ft. in height and not to exceed 60 sq. ft. We will eliminate Subsection D.(#15) regarding overhanging signs. Rob will make the necessary changes and prepare a new draft for us to approve.

The definition for “junkyard” in our ordinance needs updating. The suggestion is to make reference to the existing “Blight & Junk Ordinance”. Rob will check on the legality of eliminating 10.90, #1.

Crop dusting is regulated by the Dept. of Agriculture. Therefore our ordinance has no need of including language concerning it.

We discussed the next steps to take regarding enforcement of the “Blight & Junk Ordinance” as a follow-up to the letter from the Township Board. Mike and Vic will meet to compile a list of properties that could be considered to have blight issues. The next step would be a personal contact for the purpose of seeking compliance. If no attempts are made to gain compliance, then a ticket can be served.

New Business:

We recognize that there is a growing problem in our Township with mobile units being brought on to a property (with no other residence having been established) and remaining there all year long. They are to be removed periodically (after 8 wks.) They are being used like a cabin. We will address this matter further at another meeting.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 6:30

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Thomas, secretary