

Marilla Township Planning Commission Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Time: 6:30

Call to order: Chair, Mike Picchiotti

Pledge

Present: Members: Jan Thomas, Pat Ellis, Mike Picchiotti

Zoning Administrator, Vic Ellis and visitor, Rob

Absent: Township Board Representative (to be determined)

Mike gave members copies of the Springdale Township Blight and Junk Ordinance for us to review and compare to Marilla Township Ordinance. Douglas had two copies printed of Marilla Township's Zoning Ordinances for our use. Rob attended our meeting to begin aiding us in the review process of our zoning plan. He plans to meet with us two more times.

If there is a later updated version of the ordinance, we need to be using it. We need an electronic version so that it can be edited. Jan will check with Douglas and Betty to answer that question. The one that we have is dated April 10, 2014.

Rob reported that there are new regulations from the state regarding signs that we need to be aware of. The Supreme Court has taken action on new regulations. He will look for ways that we might streamline our present ordinances. Rob and his wife Leslie work as a team. She will be the one to examine ours with a "fine tooth comb" and suggest changes.

Misty, our new clerk, was able to locate copies of the Marilla Township blight and Junk ordinance dated May 10, 2000. This was supposed to have been added to our Ordinance, but for some reason it was not printed. Blight was addressed briefly in the Ordinance on page 21, section 10.1 "Junk and Blight". The same language is restated in the more comprehensive Blight & Junk Ordinance of 2000.

The members concluded that we would present a draft letter addressed to every resident of the Township regarding our regulations contained in the Blight & Junk Ordinance. The letter will suggest ways that the Township and County services can help to remedy blight. Specifically, those services are: the annual "Clean-up Day" on September 18th, at the Township Hall that is free of charge and supported with the taxpayer's money and the "Toxic Waste Day" on September 26th in Kaleva. Rob will draft a letter for us to review and send it to the Planning

Commission members. Once we approve the letter, we will present it to the Township Board at their next board meeting on August 10th for their approval. They will need to approve the expenditure as well. Then we will need to act quickly to get it printed and sent out.

Vic would like us to address a portion of the ordinance that deals with building on 10 acres on a paved road and having to have 20 acres in order to build on a dirt road. He finds this to be confusing and not sensible. We will check on this to determine if changing this would make better sense.

There was some discussion regarding regulations that pertain to the use of farm toxins in community planning or perhaps it is addressed in environmental regulations.

Vic asked that we speak with the Township Board about resolving that the Z.A. can act in accordance with the present Marilla Township Blight & Junk Ordinance.

Motion: That the Planning Commission meet on Wednesdays from now on. (Mike (1), Jan (2); passed.

At the next Township meeting, we will request that a 5th person be appointed to the Planning Commission and that the Board determine who will be the Township's representative on the commission. The clerk will send all minutes to the Township clerk so that they can be filed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Thomas, secretary

Next meeting will be August 18th at 6:30.