

Jonesfield Township
Planning Commission Meeting
Minutes for July 09, 2019

- Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm
- All members present except for M. Keenan
- Pledge
- Vote to approve minutes from previous meeting – 04/09/19
 - M. Kenny – moved
 - J. Siler – support
 - Motion carried
- Additions to Agenda: Next move for Planning Commission on turbine ordinance with failed vote (M. Kenny)
- Jim Gray’s Zoning Report
 - Sent out two letters
 - S. Meridian Rd – had begun moving vehicles, but has now hauled more things back in. – Ticket issued. Waiting for court date.
 - M-46/Meridian Rd – Did not comply even after extension was granted. Ticket issued. Waiting for court date.
 - Farm on Frost Rd/Chapin Rd – Twp has worked with farmer over a long period of time to allow them to either demolish barn and house or remodel. Still has not complied. Letter sent by Twp attorney granting 30 days to present either a demolition plan or permits to remodel.
 - Resident had contacted Saginaw Co. Road Commission requesting signs to be placed on Meridian Road north of M-46 for truck drivers not to use jake breaks. A letter from resident was sent to Wheeler Twp Supervisor, which was then sent to Jonesfield Twp. Since Meridian Rd. is a county line road there was discussion on whose agenda this matter should rest. Due to resident residing on West side of Meridian Rd, and on the North side of M-46, this is a matter for Wheeler Twp. Commission Chair Bluemer will still get a copy of the Merrill Village ordinance on the use of jake breaks to review. There was also discussion on writing an ordinance limiting the use of jake breaks from 8pm – 6am. More will be discussed at next meeting.
- M. DeBeau – Village Council
 - Requested to work with Jonesfield Planning Commission on the 5 year review of Master Plan as was done in the past. Master Plan review needs to be completed by the end of 2020. At this time village and township will finalize jointly.
- Need to have ordinance for shipping containers? No new decisions were made. Will have a copy of Thomas Township ordinance available at October meeting for review.
 - Shipping containers are becoming more popular for storage on property
 - M46/Chapin has container near property line
 - Thomas Twp. has restrictive use ordinance
 - 30 days or the duration of a building permit

- Question? – Do we want an ordinance for containers? If so, how would they be treated?
 - Discussion thoughts: add as accessory building, over 200 sq ft needs a building permit, R1 restrict to same as Thomas Twp., A1 & A2 follow accessory building ordinance. (Section 306)
- Planning Commission’s next move on wind energy.
 - Commission Chair Bluemer stated that the planning commission operates by order of the township board. If the Jonesfield Township Board requests that the planning commission revisit the ordinance, then it would do so. Otherwise planning commission would move forward with 2004 ordinance with the use of special permits.
- Public Comment opened at this time
 - M. Kenny would like the Planning Commission to take another look at the old ordinance, rather than going through with special use permits. He would like to see everything written out specifically a head of time, so that everyone is on the same page.
 - The township board rejected motion to send ordinance back to the planning commission.
 - Commission Chair Bluemer was contacted by several residents who stated they voted “no” because they wanted the less restrictive 2004 ordinance.
 - Concern of public for decommission of turbines because there is nothing in 2004 ordinance for this.
 - R. Coppens stated in contract there is a section that refers to decommission.
 - Some restrictions can be written in the special use permit.
 - Planning Commission would ask DTE to bring in the whole plan of special use permits at one time so that all permits can be reviewed at one time. This will allow all permits to be looked at fairly, and issues worked out prior to any approval.
 - There are also state and federal regulations that DTE has to follow.
 - A couple residents still have concerns about turbine placement on adjacent properties to theirs. Neighbors are able to talk with DTE and each other to discuss turbine placement.
 - Comment also on shipping containers from R. Siler. Would like something written in the ordinance about maintenance to keep containers looking respectable and not an eyesore.
 - J. Buckley had concerns about road quality and complaint resolution.
 - L. Tibbits has asked Saginaw County Road Commission to be involved and do an assessment of road conditions prior to any turbine permits.
- Continuation of 5 year review of zoning ordinance
 - Section 308 Farm Animals
 - Reviewed changes made by Secretary Nock. Changes were approved with exception of a couple typos. These will be corrected and resent to each member.
 - Review of Chapter 4: Non-Conforming Uses
 - Mike’s Party Store is now non-conforming. This property has not been a party store for over 6 months, and reverts back to its original use as residential.
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- Section 404 is Inventory of Non Conformities
 - No one is aware of there being any sort of inventory. Jim Gray will work with Marcia to see if any such thing exists.
 - Depending on their findings, it will be determined whether to keep or exclude this portion at the October meeting.
- During October meeting there will be discussion on:
 - Chapter 5 of Zoning Ordinance
 - Developing time-line for reviewing Master Plan with the village, and need of extra meetings.
- Motion to adjourn by K. Nock
 - Support by M. Kenny
 - Passed – meeting to adjourn at 9:05pm
- Next meeting is Oct. 8, 2019 at 7:00pm.