

Minutes of the Avon Township Planning Commission

July 29, 2015

Avon Township Hall (16881 Queens Road, Avon)

1. **Call to order:** Chairman Gondringer called to order the regular meeting of the Avon Township Planning Commission at 7:30 PM in the main chamber of the Avon Township Hall.
2. **Pledge:** Deputy Clerk Gondringer led the Pledge of Allegiance
3. **Roll Call:** Present – Ken Mergen, Will Huston, Gerry Kremers, LeRoy Gondringer, Deputy Clerk Marion Gondringer. Absent: Steve Saupe. Also in attendance was Richard Bresnahan, Township Supervisor.
4. **Approval of agenda:** Motion to approve by Mergen. Second by Kremers. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - **Minutes of the June 24, 2015 Planning Commission Meeting:** Motion to approve by Kremers. Second by Mergen. All in favor. Motion carried. Huston abstained due to June absence.
6. **Public Hearings:** None.
7. **Scheduled Business:**
 - **Rood – Driveway permit:** Chris Rood; Represented by Klein Builders. Motion by Mergen to recommend approval of the driveway permit application. Second by Huston. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - **Nathan Haakonson – Request to revisit driveway permit.** Haakonson’s home sales business has been registered with the County as an extended home business. Currently a 12 foot driveway exists. Land falls in the Shoreland Overlay District. Previous request was for an additional driveway which would create a U-shaped driveway going across the front of the residence. The Commission helped explore other options available. Huston suggested a turnaround located in front of the house instead of beside the garage. Since nothing has changed in this request, and no new application has been presented to the board at this time, no recommendation was made. Haakonson will present his case to the Town Board for their reconsideration of his previous permit application.
 - **Cox family request for a family run event:** Family will run from Pelican Lake Road south to 360th Street, down Red Maple Drive and then back to the beginning location. No recommendation is made on this issue since the Township has no formal application process in place for this type of event.
 - **Kelly CUP review:** Kelly went through the proper permitting process for a Limited Rural Business. Permit has been reviewed and the Board has no concerns at this point.
8. **Other Business:**
 - **CUP Actions - County or Township?:** Supervisor Bresnahan expressed belief that CUP’s are better handled at the Township level as opposed to County level. Gondringer stated that the County has staff in place to handle CUP’s and they are very willing to assist Townships with them. Motion by Mergen to recommend to the board of Supervisors that the Township continue to act on CUP applications. Second by Kremers. Vote was 3 to 1 in favor. Motion carried.
 - **Bike race, etc., use of Town roads.** Discussion took place concerning the way bike races have been run in the Township in the recent past. Residents have contacted the Township concerning the fact that the race personnel are closing off roads and not allowing traffic through. Race personnel are also affecting actions by residences because they are being told how they can use their land during the races. This will be addressed at the Supervisor Meeting next week.
9. **Review Township wish list:**
 - **Built-in voting booths:** Mergen stated that the stand up election booths were not utilized by very many voters therefore new booths would most probably not be used much either. This board felt that the way elections are handled is working well and no recommendation is made.
 - **Riding mower:** Purchase of a riding mower is being suggested by our maintenance employee because of the fact that the mulching mower we now have cannot handle the tall grass.

- **Dias for those who speak at the meeting:** It was felt that this was not a strong priority at this time.
- **Water treatment system:** Water has been tested and found to be adequate.
- **Coat rack in entryway:** Concern in reference to a location for a coat rack was discussed. Support for this need was not felt at this time.
- **Weeds:** The board would like the Supervisors to consider getting a small spraying rig for the maintenance employee to spray thistles in ditches.
- **Web site suggestions:** None discussed.
- Concern was expressed about correspondence that was sent to the Stearns County Planning Board by Supervisor Nelson, which expressed support for a Township decision that was different than the decision made at a Supervisor’s meeting. Concern centered around the conflict for the Supervisor in using his position as Township Supervisor to support an issue at the County level which goes against the decision of the Township board. Supervisors may represent themselves as residents, but not as Supervisors.
- **Recording Meetings:** Mergen suggested recording only those testimonies at township meetings which pertained to land use policies and public hearings. This would provide a simplified process for retrieval of data if needed. Research into a more professional process for recording meetings is in progress.
- **Behrend ROW consideration:** Behrend has a driveway gate structure that is located within the road right of way. Behrend has been notified on this issue and has been directly addressed by Supervisor Nelson. Behrend feels the structure has been there so long it should be “Grandfathered In”.
- **Home at 64553 Princewood Drive:** Home appears to be abandoned. Mergen will consult with the Stearns County Auditor to determine the status of the home as it pertains to abandoned homes.
- **Police issue:** Wakefield Township receives a portion of fines levied in their Township. Kremers inquired about the status of the research being done on this. It was stated that this was turned over to Kelly Martini.

10. Reports/Announcements

- **Meeting with City** – Sept 16, 6:30 PM, City Hall.
- **Eurasian milfoil update:** Spraying and hand picking is taking place.
- **Russell Arndt book available**
- **Bueckers plat denied by** County Planning Commission. County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on August 25th at 10:05 a.m.
- **Stearns County is considering requiring PC signature on plats**
- **Co Rd 3 roadwork began on Monday July 27**
- **Haakonson-** Home extended business permit issued by County

Adjournment: Motion by Mergen to adjourn at 9:35 P.M. Second by Kremers. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is August 29, 2015 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted
 Marion J. Gondringer, Deputy Clerk

Approval:

 LeRoy Gondringer, Chair

 Date

Attest:

 Date