

Rock River Township
Planning Commission Mtg – December 11th, 2023

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

Members present: Don Johnson, Tammy Shega, Olivia Kingery, Jon Rondeau, Rowan Bunce

Guests: Scott Bunce, Kathy LaRock, Dan Johnson

Motion by Bunce and supported by Kingery to approve the proposed October 23rd minutes. All ayes. Motion passed.

Motion by Bunce and supported by Kingery to approve the agenda as amended. All ayes. Motion passed.

Public Comment – none.

Communications – none.

Zoning Administrator report. Solar Array permit was given for M. Knockman which is a ground mount. Cargo storage containers on M94 – he sent a letter to the owner. The owner had called Case when he was the ZA, but hasn't responded to Maki. Maki will write another follow up letter. Question to Maki regarding the storage containers – he suggested a definition so it will be clearer. Will be addressed during old business.

Old Business - Bylaws and Master Plan

Motion by Bunce and supported by Rondeau to add Pledge of Allegiance in section D between call to order and roll call. Bunce/Rondeau.

By Laws – typographical corrections suggested by Johnson to be corrected to Section II and Section XI. They will be completed by the next meeting.

Master Plan – Per Bunce, data sets from the census are long to read, but he will put some of the subjects in graphs. Kingery has a lot of pictures that can be put in to update items also. He noted the information about the soils and geographics is similar to other Master Plans. Some of the things can be narrowed down and summarized, but we need to check for the legality of changing anything. He wants to pass as is and let CUPPAD decide what we can cut or summarize. He also indicated the employer/employment data was so long and long term – we will put the Census link in that spot instead of pages of data.

Johnson mentioned the need to update the businesses – Olivia corrected what we know and discussed during the meeting. We'll inquire further for business farm names and see if they would like to be listed.

Syntax and other corrections throughout the document were reviewed, discussed, and corrected.

Per Bunce, the Implementation part of it the MP is important. Future land use is where we'll need to do another survey. We can use the Onota one as a template for our own, although we need to decide what questions we'll need to put on it in regard to the information needed for future land use and planning in RR Township. Plan to have input for our next meeting. It needs to stay 4 pages in order to be able to be mailed.

Recreation Plan – census figures need to be updated although for the most part, not much has changed.

New Business - Shipping containers

Plan to add a definition for an accessory structure and decide where they are allowed so that we can add it to the zoning ordinance. ZA advised that we should have some limits, but thinks we do have a way to limit the number of them with our current zoning. It was decided to use the Skandia definition for the containers. ZA also advised that we plan for a public hearing for this and the recreational structure (during construction) as well as the 200 sq (Sec 402/a-#2) amendment referring to accessory structure sizes.

Future planning – January 8th is the date of the next meeting.

Announcements. Don announced that he will be resigning from the PC but will be here until another one is appointed.

Public comment – Jon Rondeau asked if ZA is up to speed on the latest energy policy passed by the State that takes power away from the local units. ZA commented that as a general rule, he would not have to know about the new laws since they would override zoning, but he will look into the legislation.

Dan Johnson stated that Alger County Renewable Energy Source (ACRES) put on a seminar about the solar energy items. They have \$100,000 to put in for educational purposes. Major topics of the last seminar were about the Groveland Mine in Felch, and another one in Sands Twp have been proposed. They must be close to distribution lines, etc. We can look into this group for information.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Shega and supported by Bunce All ayes. Adjourned at 8:51