Rock River Township

Planning Commission Mtg – January 15th, 2024 - Proposed minutes

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:10PM.

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

Guests: Dawn Rondeau, Dan Johnson, Heidi Swajanen, Jana Hytinen, Eric Artist (find out name)

Motion by Rondeau and supported by Kingery to approve the proposed December 11th minutes. All ayes. Motion passed.

Motion by Kingery and supported by Shega to approve the agenda as amended (adding old business for bylaws). All ayes. Motion passed.

Public Comment – Eric Artress shows interest in being on the planning commission. Chair indicated to him that he should apply through the township board.

Election of officers – motion by Rondeau, supported by Kingery to table until the next meeting.

Communications – none.

Zoning Administrator report. Still hasn’t received any response from the owner of the storage containers and will follow up with a question to Joe Cilc to see if they need any county permits. He will then follow up with the owner. He also got a land division issue, (which he does not do as they go to Cameron Fuse, but it comes to him due to zoning approvals) and he has communicated with Mr Fuse for clarification and is awaiting a response from him. It’s a deed for a 3.88 parcel in a 10 acre area. The end result will be that if there is a violation, corrective action, if they won’t comply, is that the township will have to go to court to rescind the deed. A person wanted to know if there was an easement text to address easement for a building off the road and he could not find anything referencing this. He felt like 30 feet was enough in this particular case (one building was built off the road). Most easements are made at 66’. He also sent the PC an email report with zoning text amendments for future consideration.

Old Business – Bylaws, Master Plan, Recreation Plan

Motion by Kingery and supported by Rondeau to approve the bylaws as presented. All ayes. Motion passes.

Master Plan – Johnson added some businesses to the Google doc. Kingery was waiting to add graphs and pictures after speaking with Bunce, who previously mentioned that we should send it to CUPPAD in order to have them look at it. Shega is still communicating to Rushford at the County Road Commission for more of an update on the secondary roads.

Motion by Kingery and supported by Shega to send the MP to CUPPAD for their review. It is understood that we still will need to input the graphs and ask about links for census information. All ayes. Motion passes. Johnson will ask about what census data we can use and if we can use their surveys as a potential template for ours. Shega asked Johnson to ask how long it will take as they have had some items for months.

Recreation Plan – Bunce had previously mentioned that the Rec Plan is in very good shape and would simply require some updates in regard to dates etc. Kingery was able to make the Plan into a Google doc while at the meeting and we can work with that going forward.

Questions were asked about the previous goals, and some were reviewed– we need to set new goals and eliminate what has been accomplished. Johnson said what was listed in the old plan were simply suggestions.

No further discussion on these and both plans will be kept on the next agenda as Old Business.

New Business - Future Land Use -

Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance/Citizens for Local Choice Petition and green energy law passed by the state.

Cuppad has helped adjoining townships – and feels that we don’t have much to worry about due to where our sunlight is. Our ZA works with Skandia also and they haven’t done anything about this. He will contact Alger Co Renewable Energy and ask about CREO; also ask if they will do another presentation about renewable energy. Dan Johnson indicated that Vicky Ballas in Munising is one of the local contacts for the $100,000 set aside for education. There was a general info session a few weeks ago and an old mine in Felch is being developed as well as something in Sands Township.

Further discussion about the survey – Olivia offered to work on updating the survey to our own needs. Use the Onota and our old one for comparisons. Need to review the MP’s future land use in order to decide what questions to have on the survey as this is what the survey will be about.

Public comment – none

Motion to adjourn meeting by Shega and supported by Kingery. All ayes. Adjourned at 8:16