

Pennfield Charter Township

Planning Commission Meeting

Minutes of September 9, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm at the Pennfield Middle School cafeteria. Members present were Jon Bartlett, Brad Messenger, Curtis Whitaker, Jack Pooler and Paul Anderson. Elaine Walter and Tammi Damerow were excused. A quorum was met.

Others present: Supervisor Rob Behnke and Recording Secretary Sandra Cummings.

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

A motion was made by Brad Messenger, seconded by Paul Anderson to accept the meeting agenda. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Curtis Whitaker, seconded by Paul Anderson, to approve the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2013. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING:

a) Public hearing on the updates to the Pennfield Township Master Plan:

There were no public comments on the updates to the Pennfield Township Master Plan.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to address.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Adoption of proposed 2013 Master Plan Updates

The Board members briefly discussed the updates. Paul Anderson asked if the Pennfield Board of Trustees had accepted the recommendation to budget funds in the amount of \$5000.00 for the next fiscal year to be used for Parks and Recreation in compliance with the five year Master Plan. Rob Behnke confirmed that the recommendation was accepted by the Board at the June 11, 2013 Township Board meeting. Rob stated that the Master plan updates will be added to the Township Website, and also will be available for public viewing at the township office.

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Paul Anderson made a motion, seconded by Curtis Whitaker to adopt the 2013 Master Plan Updates. Motion carried. Roll call vote follows:

Jon Bartlett yes Paul Anderson yes

Brad Messenger yes Jack Pooler yes

Curtis Whitaker yes Elaine Walter excused

Tammi Damerow excused

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Hobby Farms

The Board discussed recent activity in another township concerning Hobby Farms. It was stated that Pennfield already has an ordinance in place concerning requirements for all farm animals. The Board discussed the desire of people to "go green" by raising some of their own food in community gardens and raising chickens and waterfowl.

b) Chickens in Residential Zoned Area

The Board discussed how many occurrences there have been of people keeping chickens in residential zoned areas in the township. They discussed how it was handled in other jurisdictions, and the fact that people could get a heavy fine in many townships, which is an aid in discouraging the keeping of chickens. The board discussed the fact that quiet animals such as chickens and rabbits are no worse than residents who keep many dogs, which can create noise disturbances. They discussed that fact that the keeping of chickens

could encourage a higher instance of predator animals in neighborhood, such as skunks, raccoons, coyotes, and fox.

COMMISSION MEMBERS COMMENTS

A member asked if there had been any further activity with wind farms. Nothing has been going on with wind farms, and no test site has been developed yet. Curtis stated he will not be here for the October Planning Commission meeting. Brad stated everyone should be careful of school buses and children and support the football team. Rob stated that recycling was extended from last month and will be held again on September 28 and September 29. Also there will be tire recycling on September 21, here at the township office, to be sponsored by the Environmental Health Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

The next scheduled meeting will be October 7, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Brad Messenger made a motion, seconded by Jack Pooler, to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm. Motion carried.

Sandra Cummings, Recording Secretary