

**FOREST HOME TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 11, 2018 @7:00 pm**

Members present: Paul Trumble, Doug Dewey, Dan Steiner, Tom Sheneman and Linda Cran.

Absent:

Also present: Stephen Barnard, Tom Frey, Heidi Shaffer, Barbara Carton, Kelly Ferguson and Diane Horling.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Agenda:

It was moved by Sheneman, seconded by Cran to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

Public Comment:

The Chairman requested Public Comment. Tom Frey spoke in appreciation of the commission starting each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Public comment closed.

Guest Speaker: Antrim County Conservation Soil Erosion Officer Heidi Shaffer

Antrim Conservation District Soil Erosion Offer has legal authority to:

- 1) Enforce the soil erosion control law and the county soil erosion and sediment control ordinance (this does not include buffer zoning /ordinances).
- 2) Provide copies of the soil erosion permits to the permit applicant and property owner.
- 3) Document, follow-up, and close out issued permits.

Activity includes:

- 1) Issuing permits and provision of copies to the building dept., township zoning officials, and DEQ when relevant.
- 2) Encourages homeowners to secure permits from the DEQ for wetland/shoreline/docks.
- 3) Encourages applicants and homeowners to secure zoning permits.
- 4) Informing applicant and homeowners about buffer ordinances.
- 5) Informing applicant and homeowners about controlling, capturing and filtering storm water in their landscaping.
- 6) Educating applicants and homeowners on the value of trees, wetlands, natural areas and the up-North aesthetic.
- 7) Taking pictures of proposed earth changes location.
- 8) Taking picture of shorelines and wetlands that may exist on a property.
- 9) Educating applicants and homeowners about the importance of natural shorelines and try to dissuade them from hardening their shorelines with rocks.
- 10) Working closely with townships and their zoning administrators.
- 11) Hosting an annual contractors' workshop for county and township regulators.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE – STEPHEN BARNARD

Steven Bacon Properties – Update

- 1) The lake front lot has a trailer/camper parked on site.
- 2) The dwelling continues to have many vehicles, garbage and equipment in the front and along the sides of property.

It appears that he is manufacturing cabins in his front yard and a log cabin is on concrete blocks, not on a trailer with wheels.

Discussion followed. Manufacturing regulations, permitting and violations.

Photos have been taken of both sites and turned over to legal counsel to determine what the township can do to move forward to attempt to resolve this ongoing situation.

Complaints:

John and Faye Kirkpatrick – 7375 Meadow Lane

Their travel trailer is parked back on property in the location designated for loading and unloading.

The trailer has been parked in this location for several weeks. A letter will be sent to the homeowners to inform them that the trailer once again has to be moved and that they are in violation.

Signage

Northern Lights Vacations www.bellairerentals.net sign placed near 620/Torch Lake Drive is in violation. The sign was removed and the owners were notified to pick up their sign.

Steve Ball-Cargo Container/Trailer

Mr. Ball's cargo container/trailer has been removed from the property. During his research he determined that the property was purchased via land contract and that was why he was unable to find address for the proper owner.

T.L. Cooper Family-Fencing

Permits written for a seven (7) foot fence to be installed along the owner's lot line all to Intermediate Lake.

MINUTES:

It was moved by Dewey, seconded by Sheneman that the minutes of June 6, 2018 be approved as corrected. Motion carried –all present voting yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sheneman spoke of complaints regarding matters of storage and light pollution (spot lights/flood lights). Many issues can be handled on a case by case basis and effective handling can prevent matters from getting out of hand.

Discussion followed.

SHORT TERM RENTALS

Diane Horling referred to her concerns addressed in a letter sent to the Forest Home Township on or about June 1, 2017 and that her neighbor/ owner of a private single family home that was purchased to convert into a rental property. The homeowner is using this home for commercial activity renting property out on a weekly basis and has for the last three (3) years. The home has four (4) bedrooms and has had renters/groups of up to fifteen (15) people. These rentals are being advertised on the internet as rental/resort. She requested that the definitions for (Commercial Business) and (In Home Business) be defined.

Trumble announced that our state lawmakers have been addressing Short Term Rentals and if or when our lawmakers make a ruling we will all tied to their regulations state-wide.

In the meantime Trumble suggested that Ms. Horling attempt to discuss with the homeowner any problems and/or concerns directly or contact the Antrim County Sheriff Department.

Trumble requested Ms. Horling to provide a written list to the township addressing her concerns and situations that she has ~~encounter~~ **encountered**.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Chairman request Public Comment. Kelly Ferguson thanked the commission for listening, and stated that the commission has an obligation to look at values of this community and that the Zoning Ordinance be regulated for all residents equally and that special treatment and/or looking the other way not be accepted. She referred to Dean Crandall – Township Trustee has trailer parked on his property on Steiner Road for over one (1) year with a non-compliant septic system. Kelly Ferguson thanked the commission for their help with the cargo/trailer situation on the Ball property. Public comment closed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Chairman, Paul Trumble

Secretary, Linda Cran