

**FOREST HOME TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2016**

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

Absent: None

Also present: Stephen Barnard, FHT Zoning Administrator, Tom Frey,Carolynn Nichols,
Barb Carton, Suzann Mahan

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Paul Trumble at 7:00 p.m.

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

Public Comment:

The Chairman requested Public Comment. Tom Frey spoke of his appreciation to commission for continuing public comment at the beginning and end of each meeting. Barb Carton thanked Stephen Barnard for answering her question about an individual shooting a high powered rifle in the R1 zone. Unless permission has been provided to the person shooting by the property owner the guidelines require an individual to be at least 500 feet away from a residence. He suggested that she verify with the DNR regarding all rules and regulations and to confirm the 500 foot rule.

FHT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – STEPHEN BARNARD

Reported that September 21, 2016 the governor signed into law Medical Marihuana Bills and provided members with the following:

House Bill No. 4209

Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act;

House Bill No. 4210

Allow under state law the medical use of marihuana; to provide protections for the medical use of marihuana; to provide for a system of registry identification cards for qualifying patients and primary caregivers; to impose a fee for registry application and renewal; to provide for the promulgation of rules; to provide for the administration of this act; to provide for enforcement of this act; to provide for affirmative defenses; and to provide for penalties for violations of this act.

House Bill No. 4287

Marihuana Tracking Act.

Laws take effect December 20, 2016, but no application may be filed until 360 days after that Date, being (December 15, 2017) as the Medical Marihuana Licensing Board must be created and members appointed, along with the promulgation of rules to effectively implement and administer the acts. PA 281 allows townships and other local units to determine whether any medical marihuana facilities can be located in their jurisdiction, as well as the number of facilities, if they choose to limit. No action is required for townships to keep such facilities out of their community. Townships could further regulate zoning, noise, lighting, setback requirements and other aspects if medical marihuana facilities.

Additionally, a township may charge an annual nonrefundable fee of up to \$5,000 to help with the administrative and enforcement costs and would receive a portion of a new 3 percent tax if it has a facility.

Linda Cran also spoke of the house bills signed by the governor to regulate and to protect the “legal businesses” under state law.

The Chairman recommended that the members take time to review (House Bills) and commission will discuss at the next meeting.

Bacon Zoning Violation Civil Matter – Judge Phillips findings and decision: Key was the “wheels”, being the cabin was always on wheels, more like a 5th wheeler camper, does not matter what it looks like; therefore not a structure and Bacon was not responsible. Other violations may be addressed at this site and Trumble asked the Zoning Administrator to review and if needed to discuss with attorney.

Reported that 26 permits have been written in 2016 and that only three (3) of these permits are dwellings.

BLIGHT ORDINANCE:

Barnard reported that he has received a formal complaint from Carl Stellin, regarding the Johnson property and has provided the members with copy.

Trumble reported that after viewing the property that the piles have gone down, property appears to be neater and Mr. Johnson is currently cutting fire wood. A site visit was made that they were unable to view the east and west property lines from the road.

Now, that the township has received a written complaint filed by Carl Stellin that a meeting will be set up with Mr. Johnson to see if an agreement can be reached to resolve complaint.

Sheneman stated that in his opinion that he does not see a problem as this property is Mr. Johnson’s property. No Blight Ordinance needed.

Both Cran and Dewey stated that they have driven by the Johnson property and can see piles of wood but do not see a real problem.

Trumble stated that the commission will continue to monitor “Blight” issues but at this time there appears to be no serious major problems.

MINUTES:

It was moved by Sheneman, seconded by Steiner that the minutes be approved as corrected. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cran asked if there was anything new to report on the Powell properties. Barnard reported that he has not received any new information.

Sheneman reported that Tony Marshall Excavating has almost completed the road work at the Miley property.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cran reported that there has been a lot of traffic in and out of Vandermark Road, large trucks and equipment and asked if anyone knew what is going on? No one reported of any knowledge of activity.

Review the House Bills #4209, 4210 and 4827 "Medical Marihuana" bills that the governor has signed for the (Tracking, the registry identification cards for qualifying patients and caregivers, etc. and medical marihuana facilities licensing act).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Chairman requested public comment.

Tom Frey spoke on a new application for the smart phones that will locate ones exact location while hiking, biking or walking in Glacial Hills Trails and Pathway.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Chairman, Paul Trumble

Secretary, Linda Cran