

**FOREST HOME TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, December 7, 2016**  
**7:00 PM**

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

Absent: Linda Cran

Also present: Stephen Barnard, Tom Frey and Barb Carton

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The Chairman requested Public Comment. Tom Frey thanked the members for starting each and every meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE – STEPHEN BARNARD**

1. A permit was issued to Mike Sheneman to build a Pole Barn.  
Discussion followed regarding Mr. Sheneman's original site plan and requested the site plan be reviewed to verify that the Farm/Utility building on the site is or is not part of the plan and if building is being used for business purposes the site plan will need to be updated. Barnard will review the original site plan and report back at the next meeting.
2. At the meeting last month we discussed the trailer on Vandermark Road which had been red tagged by the Antrim County Construction Code because the owner had not pulled permits nor apparently aware of permits needed. Mr. Barnard and the Construction Code Officer worked with the property owner to correct all issues.
3. A complaint was made regarding a trailer on Honey Hollow Road owned by Mr. Matthews.
4. Several attempts have been made to contact Mr. Johnson with no success and will continue to try to communicate with Mr. Johnson. Will report status at the next meeting.
5. Presented the 2017 Meeting Schedule pointing out that he did not schedule a meeting date for February. Informing the members that he will be on vacation and the FHT Board will not be meeting in February.  
Discussion followed and it was agreed that a decision would be made at the January meeting.

It was moved by Sheneman, seconded by Dewey that the 2017 proposed meeting schedule be adopted and that the February meeting date to be decided at the January 2017 meeting. Motion carried – All present voting yes.

**MEDICAL MARIHUANA – UPDATE:**

Planning & Zoning News – Good information  
New Medical Marihuana Law allows large scale grower dispensaries  
Continue to follow and discuss updates as they become available.

It was moved by Sheneman, seconded by Dewey that the Medical Marihuana Moratorium be extended for six (6) months. Motion carried - All present voting yes.

It was moved by Dewey, seconded by Sheneman to approve the meeting minutes of November 2, 2016 as written. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Chairman requested input from the members on the 2016 Project Report “The Septic Question” Antrim County Report.

Sheneman stated that he read the report and found no problems that would support a push for a “Point of Sale” Ordinance.

Dewey agreed with Sheneman. He stated that the Septic System failure rate provided in report was not enough to support “Point of Sale” Ordinance.

Steiner stated that many systems are aging and owners may not know if systems are working properly. If systems were failing on our lake properties you can be certain that the neighbors would be complaining.

Barnard stated that he has had contact with three (3) property owners that have inquired about replacing their ancient lake front cabins. Some owners do not know where their systems are on their property, nor are they aware of all the rules and regulations involved as far as Township Zoning, County Construction Code and Health Department requirements.

Trumble stated that the report as written is lacking proof that the septic systems are the cause of the Golden Brown Algae in our lakes.

Barb Carton agreed that the written report did not support system failures as a major concern but that owners need to be educated on caring for and maintaining their septic systems.

Sheneman agreed that an educational campaign would be a way to involve public and assist in the education of maintaining and the operations of septic systems. The announcement of a campaign to educate and inform could be printed on tax bills and/or sent out on postcards.

It was agreed that the “Point of Sale” Ordinance should be County driven for a “Countywide” Ordinance.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The Chairman requested Public comment. There was none.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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Paul Trumble, Chairman

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Linda Cran, Secretary