

**FOREST HOME TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

Members present: Paul Trumble, Doug Dewey, Dan Steiner, Linda Cran, and Tom Sheneman
Absent: None
Also present: Stephen Barnard, FHT Zoning Administrator, Tom Frey, and Carolyn Nichols

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

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

The Chairman requested Public Comment. Tom Frey thanked the commission for starting their meetings with the pledge.

AGENDA:

It was moved by Sheneman, seconded by Cran that the Agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried all present voting yes.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Stephen Barnard – Report and Update

1. A request was made by the property owners that live on the corner of Grass Lake Road and Bellaire Highway/620 inquiring on zoning rules and standards to address raising chickens.
2. Ruthann's Gourmet Bakery owned and operated by Ruthann Dexter located at 7525 Meadow Lane had been notified that she was in violation of conducting business without having applied for the required permits per the FHT Zoning Ordinance. Mrs. Dexter stated that she was unaware of the required permitting process from the township and immediately completed the permit application forms and all necessary permits have been issued.
3. Complaints have been received regarding homes located on Miley Point regarding the location of their docks. Copies of Riparian Owner Right rules along with maps have been sent to those individuals. If individuals proceed to file a complaint they would address the complaint to the State of Michigan.
4. The complaint regarding Mr. Johnson's property located on Torch Lake Drive, just north of 620 having rubbish visible from the road has informed the Township that he will be installing a fence to conceal rubbish.
5. Mr. Bacon has moved both cabins to the north side of his property and continues to work on the cleanup.

MINUTES:

It was moved by Sheneman, seconded by Dewey that the minutes be approved as corrected for the meeting dated April 6, 2016. Motion carried – all present voting yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Marihuana Update:

Cran reported that the Antrim County Sheriff Department has received a grant to assist with medical marijuana oversight and enforcement per article printed in the Antrim Review and provided a copy to members. Trumble provided a handout regarding the House Bill 4209 which the proposed bill addresses state and local regulation of marihuana provisioning centers.

Discussion followed.

Medical Marihuana Dispensaries

The Township can't have stronger language then the state

No ordinance no legal responsibility

Current Prosecuting Attorney has stated that he has no problem prosecuting those that are violating current law.

Continue to discuss and seek legal advice.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sheneman brought up his concerns that the township roads be widened for bikers along Bellaire Highway and Eckhardt Road to provide safer conditions to the Glacial Hills Trails.

Discussion followed.

The widening of township roads would fall under the jurisdiction of the FHT Board.

Steiner offered to address this suggestion to the Board at their regular meeting and will report back.

The Chairman requested Public Comment: Tom Frey thanked the members for the continuation of public comment on the agenda both at the beginning and ending of each meeting. Carolyn Nichols asked if there are any police powered language in the Township Ordinance.

Trumble replied that the Township does not have any police power, if you need help or assistance you will need to contact the local police department or the County Sheriff.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next regular meeting June 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman, Paul Trumble

Secretary, Linda Cran