

Austinburg Township

Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes

7 October 2020

Members:

Clare Polk, Chair (absent)
Shara Parkomaki, Vice-Chair
Rob LaPuh
Jackie Krysa
Phil Miller

Also Present:

Byron Dutton, Trustee Liaison
John Beninato, Zoning Administrator
Jeff Piatek

Shara called the October 7, 2020, meeting of Austinburg Township Zoning Commission to order at 5:20pm.

Jackie motioned to approve the 9/2/20 minutes; Phil seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Phil motioned to approve the 9/28/20 minutes; Shara seconded. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Byron introduced and discussed Jeff Piatek as a potential Commission member. Trustee Dutton stated Township Trustees would appoint Jeff to the Commission and transition Rob off the Commission at their next meeting. Commission suggested Jeff attend but abstain from voting on this new matter.

Commission agreed to order a second temporary sign with the Public Hearing details to post in front of the townhall; Sarah will ask Kanda.

Commission discussed health and safety precautions for COVID-19; Trustee Dutton agreed to send dimensions of the townhall to Shara by noon tomorrow so she could submit a plan for approval to the county health department. Commission discussed concern that mandating mask wearing could prohibit citizens from attending a public meeting and agreed to submit a plan where the masks are “strongly recommended.”

Commission thanked John for his years of experience and asked for any issues he recommended be addressed by Commission. Commission discussed whether accessory buildings in front of the house should be able to be put up without a variance because of the current setback at only 50 feet; John suggested accessory buildings could be allowed in front as long as there is a minimum 100-150 feet back from the road right-of-way (except for riverfront lots).

Commission only discussed signs with John; John suggested 1.5 feet can be restrictive, especially if it is sitting 80 feet off the road, citing that Marianne's Chocolate had to apply for a variance. Commission discussed reviewing sizes with a sign company to determine appropriate visibility.

Commission agreed to table ongoing edits to the next regularly scheduled meeting in November.

Shara agreed to share the link for the October 19, 2020, 4:30pm virtual Ashtabula County Planning Commission when she receives it so Commission members can attend, if available.

Shara agreed to contact Greg Myers, Director of Ashtabula County Growth Partnership, to invite to Public Hearing.

Commission discussed materials, agenda, and possible motions of the upcoming Public Hearing, as well as the follow-up needed to Township Trustees.

Jackie motioned to adjourn at 6:30pm; Phil seconded; all voted aye. Meeting adjourned. The Public Hearing is scheduled for October 20, 2020, at 6:00pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is November 4, 2020, at 5:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Frank

Zoning Secretary