## **Austinburg Township**

**Zoning Commission Minutes** 

## 4 August 2021

## **Members Present:**

Shara Parkomaki, Chair Clare Polak, Vice-Chair (absent) Jackie Krysa Jeff Piatek Phil Miller

Also Present: Byron Dutton, Trustee Liaison Mike Kovacic, Resident Rob LaPuh, Zoning Administrator

Jackie motioned to approve the 6/23/21 minutes; Phil seconded. Jackie requested a comment of clarification be added to this meeting's minutes that she was referring to ex parte concerns when she stated that she had no meeting prior to the County Planning Commission to ask these questions (page 2, paragraph 2). Roll call vote:

Shara - Aye Jackie - Aye Phil - Aye

Clare - Aye Jeff - Aye

Minutes approved.

Phil motioned to approve the 6/29/21 minutes; Jeff seconded. Roll call vote:

Shara - Aye Jackie - Aye Phil - Aye

Clare - Aye Jeff - Aye

Minutes approved.

Since members were unable to access and review Secretary's transcript of the public hearing, Jeff motioned to table its approval until next month; Jackie seconded. Roll call vote:

Shara - Aye Jackie - Aye Phil - Aye

Clare - Aye Jeff - Aye

Minutes tabled.

Byron announced that the rezoning of both parcels had been approved by the Trustees. Commission discussed at length the next steps to address concerns raised.

Jeff stated concerns that creating different levels of AC would get too confusing. Jackie suggested Chesterland might be a good resource for how they set up their districts. Byron explained the districts were expanded from residential/commercial to AC/NC to keep car traffic North of Clay Street. Rob reminded Commission that a Walmart could legally be built on Route 45 in the NC district and suggested Commission revisit what is permissible in NC because it is so broad. Byron suggested slowly tightening up restrictions for businesses downtown.

Jeff stated his concern that additional restrictions in AC/NC would "open a can of worms" and businesses will go instead to Ashtabula. Jackie felt this township has the traffic pattern so "holds all the cards".

Jackie suggested asking commercial buildings to see their "A" packages instead of "B" but Jeff felt there is a "million dollar difference between those 2 designs." Jackie asked Byron how sewers would be expanded and he replied that it would be done when the people develop it. Jackie felt that was another good reason for exterior standards.

Shara asked the consensus of Commission on pursuing the 3 topics (buffer zones, full cut-off lighting, exterior standards) at a work session or the next meeting. Members agreed to pursue by bringing their ideas to the next regularly-scheduled meeting. Rob volunteered to call commercial properties to find out their exterior standards. Phil said he was unable to attend the next meeting but he will look into buffer zones. Jeff said he would look into lighting.

Jackie wondered what property restrictions could be legally added to the zoning text. Shara suggested she could draft the letter to County Prosecutor; Jackie agreed. Jackie motioned, after sending to members for review, Shara will prepare a letter to the County Prosecutor's office addressing the 3 topics mentioned above to request if they are within township's power; Jeff seconded. Roll call vote:

Shara - Aye Jackie - Aye Phil - Aye

Clare - Aye Jeff - Aye

Motion approved.

Shara asked if anybody had anything else; Jackie said she had 3 things:

- 1. Jackie highlighted the 7/27/21 email forwarded from Shara regarding the allinashtabula.com
- 2. Jackie reviewed her research on comprehensive planning, including citing a 4/25/19 questionnaire asking if trustees generally in favor of this type of project. Jackie says she answered no, they never returned her messages, and then the pandemic happened. Shara asked if she suggest we do our own comprehensive plan but Jackie said she was just giving her timeline and then reviewed Article 1.
- 3. Jackie asked how Commission's minutes were posted online. Secretary responded they are emailed to the web admin. Secretary explained she had been collecting missing records from 2018 and could present them at the next meeting.

Phil motioned to adjourn; Jackie seconded. Roll call vote:

Shara - Aye Jackie - Aye Phil - Aye

Clare - Aye Jeff - Aye

Meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Frank Zoning Secretary