

Porter Township
Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2021

Start Time : Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Doug Noble, Jr., Heather Smith, Andrew Nesbitt, David Kindt, Steve Cornish, Tonya Blanchard, Bob Angle, Tim Seppala

Members Absent: John Miller.

Zoning Administrator : Rich McGrew, not present.

Approval of Agenda : Heather Smith approves, Steve Cornish seconds, all in favor, agenda approved as written.

Approval of Minutes : Tim Seppala motions to approve the April Regular Meeting Minutes as written, Bob Angle seconds. April Regular Meeting Minutes approved as written.

Additions to Agenda : None

Correspondence : None received.

Citizens Comments : Scott Zuidema was present to explain their intent to rezone the old Peacock Ridge Property (94777 M-40 Hwy). He and his wife are planning to open an electrical engineering consulting firm. In addition to creating a residence on the same property. Our attorney, Harold Schuitmaker was present and explained that it may be more beneficial in accordance with our ordinances to apply for a special use permit. Mr. Schuitmaker explained the process for presenting this idea to the board and what needs to be included. It was deemed by the commission that this would be a good fit for this property.

Board Report : Andy Nesbitt, board liaison, indicated that the main topic at the last board meeting was concerning an adult marihuana use facilities ordinance.

Old Business :

A. Old business discussed.

There was a discussion about Short term, vacation rental situations in the township from April's meeting. Dave Kindt, will go through the ordinances and put comments and points in the one selected or preferred from Silver Creek Township, Cass County and bring to the next meeting. This will serve as a blueprint. This ordinance has most of the items the PC was looking for.

New Business :

A. Mr. Schuitmaker was present today to discuss the ordinance concerning the establishment of adult use marihuana facilities. This was reviewed through Mr. Schuitmaker's office in cooperation with our township supervisor, Chris Oxley. The ordinance presented was the one adopted in the township of Marcellus. Minus some minor changes, this ordinance was the one Mr. Schuitmaker presented to the planning commission. The numbers per category allowed would need to be aligned to the numbers in our township. Mr. Schuitmaker mentioned that the board still has much to consider when choosing to adopting this new ordinance. He also states that there needs to be a better, more comprehensive review/monitoring process. Although a timeline was discussed, there is a sense of urgency to begin work on this.

Zoning Administrator report: Rich McGrew not present, no report.

ZBOA Report : Bob Angle, present, no report.

Adjournment : Tim Seppala motions to adjourn, Heather Smith seconds, meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Next Meeting: June 2, 2021