

Porter Township
Planning Commission
August Regular Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2021

Start Time: 9:00 pm.

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

Members Not Present: David Kindt

Zoning Administrator: Rich McGrew, not present.

Attorney: Harold Schuitmaker, present

Approval of Minutes: Steve Cornish motions to approve the July 7, 2021 Regular meeting minutes, Tim Seppala seconds and July regular meeting minutes are approved as written.

Additions or Changes to Agenda: Motion made by Andy Nesbitt to remove line item under old business – future of recreational marijuana, from agenda for this meeting, second by John Miller, Motion passed.

Correspondence: Letter from Holstrom Law Office, which was discussed during public hearing. No other correspondence.

Board Liaison Report: Andrew Nesbitt made Planning Commission aware that someone is approaching landowners proposing a solar farm on southeast corner of township. This is informational only, no action needed. Harold Schuitmaker indicated he found one township with a solar farm ordinance for us to review if needed. It is vague, not a large ordinance, he suggests if we decide to look into this that we explore adding a removal clause/bond, similar to towers.

ZBOA report: Per Robert Angle, nothing to report.

Citizens Comments: One citizen present, no comments.

New Business: No new business.

Old Business: Proposed short term rentals. Much discussion on topics brought up during public hearing. Possibly more needs to be addressed besides short-term rentals, could lead to updating current nuisance ordinances, parking for lake residential. Also, discussion on if we have infrastructure to handle enforcing a short-term rental ordinance. Lake residents had a lot of helpful information, they have good ideas on what is and is not needed. Attorney Schuitmaker indicated that lake association input could be helpful and productive. Discussed Senate Bill 446 and that Silver Creek Township, who we modeled our ordinance from, tabled their proposed ordinance until after that bill is voted on.

Motion made by Andy Nesbitt to recommend to Township Board that the proposed Short Term Rental ordinance be tabled pending the outcome of Senate Bill 446. Seconded by Steve Cornish. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Andy Nesbitt to recommend that Township Board reach out to lake association leaders or designees, regardless of outcome of Senate Bill 446, to ask for input on what they feel are important issue and how to address, specifically noise, advertising, traffic, or other

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conditions for the prevention of nuisances (not including environmental or water concerns).
Motion seconded by Steve Cornish. Motion passed unanimously.

Zoning Admin Report – Rich McGrew, Zoning Administrator, not present.

Adjournment - Tim Seppala motions, John Miller seconds, meeting adjourned 10:02 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 7:00 pm.
