

Bengal Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes September 27, 2023

Meeting Called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Nolan Solomon

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Solomon

Members Present: Kurt Koenigsknecht, Sam Nielsen, Nolan Solomon and Brenda Zlotek

Public Present: Nick McDonald, Bengal Township Supervisor; Lori Pung, Bengal Township treasurer; Christopher Khorey Township Zoning Administrator; Forrest Thurston, Bengal Township Zoning Inspector/Enforcement officer; Kathy George, David Smith, Jody Smith, Theresa Owen.

Additions to Agenda- none

Approval on Minutes, August 30, 2023. Kurt Koenigsknecht motioned to approve minutes with one spelling correction, seconded by Nolan Solomon, motion carried.

Public Comment on non-Agenda items- None

Reports:

Township Inspector/Enforcement Officer- Forrest Thurston: several new inspections but no issues.

Zoning Board of Appeals- Kurt Koenigsknecht- no current appeals. Chris Khorey Zoning Administrator reported there may be an issue needing to go before the ZBA but not likely in the next couple months.

Township Board Liaison- Eric Boak- absent no report.

Unfinished Business

Article 7 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) discussed some new language presented by Chris Khorey to the Planning Commission for consideration. It was decided to continue the discussion in 2024 with any other potential changes to the Zoning Ordinance.

Proposal for Joint Planning Commission with Essex Township- Chris Khorey presented the Planning Commission and public with an overview of the procedures and processes involved in developing a Joint Planning Commission. Mr. Khorey invited questions from both the Planning Commission and the public present. The discussion touched on many aspects of a Joint Planning Commission and Joint Master Plans and the impacts on all groups involved. The Bengal Township Treasurer, Lori Pung and the members of the Bengal Township Planning Commission present all expressed that any Joint Planning Commission with Essex or any other townships do not incur cost to Bengal Township. Kathy George from Essex Township and Theresa Owen from Greenbush Township both expressed their townships are only exploring options at this time and are waiting to see what Clinton County is going to do with the Zoning Ordinance in the county. Ms. George graciously thanked Bengal Township and Chris Khorey for taking the matter of a Joint Planning Commission under consideration and providing information on how to proceed if necessary.

New Business

Defining Excused Absences- Chris Khorey presented the Planning Commission with a memorandum of possible language the Planning Commission could request the Township Board add to Planning Commissions bylaws related to meeting absences.

Kurt Koenigsknecht motioned that the Planning Commission recommend the Township board add a proposed absence policy to the Planning Commission bylaws with the following language: Absence of a member from three (3) consecutively scheduled meetings or three (3) of seven (7) scheduled meetings, without the recorded consent of the majority of the Planning Commission members in attendance, may be construed as a resignation from the Planning Commission. The Chair shall convey absenteeism to the Township Board for consideration at public hearing. Seconded by Sam Nielsen, motion carried.

Pay Equity will be revisited in January 2024 prior to the Township Board finalizing their budget.

2024 Meeting dates for Bengal Township Planning Commission will remain on the last Wednesday of the month, with the exception of, March, November and December of 2024.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: Lori Pung informed the Planning Commission the Township is working on developing email accounts for all township employees.

Planning Commission Comments: Nolan reminded all our guests to sign in on the sheet by the door if they had not yet done so.

Motion of Excused Absence: Brenda Zlotek motioned to excuse the absence of Eric Boak, seconded by Kurt Koenigsknecht. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:42 PM by Chairman Solomon.

Respectfully Submitted, pending approval

Approved_01/31/2024.

Brenda Zlotek

Bengal Township Planning Commission Secretary