

Comins Township Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

November 9th 2023

Comins Twsp Hall

Call To Order: 7:00 pm

Roll Call: John McConnell, Kyle Yoder [absent], Daniel Swartzendruber [Chair], Jerry Kunnath [secr], Arisa Handrich [vice chair]

Comins twsp Zoning Board of Appeals

Larry Diller [absent], Dave Yoder [absent]

Approval of Minutes October 12th – John McConnell 1st, Jerry Kunnath 2nd – all in favor

Guests

John Brenneman, Robert Gingerich, John Kuzel

Public Comment [not pertaining to any agenda items] none

Welcomed Rob Murphy [twsp sup.] to meeting

Rob reported on an increase of business in the Township – a rise in zone permits

Old Business

Master Plan edit and review -the board worked on the plan and will tweak it during the next meeting

Michigan House Bill 5120 and 5121 – Rob reported that the Michigan Legislature has passed these two bills and that the governor has promised to sign them – these bills will basically take control of allowed zoning out of the townships hands and give the State complete control over how our lands are used [i.e. placement of solar fields, etc.] – basically voiding a townships right to plan its own lands use. We discussed possible ways to appeal this ruling.

New business

Amish School Discussion – representatives of our Amish Community, John Brenneman and Robert Gingerich talked with us on plans to build a new Amish school on a parcel of donated land on Knepp Road – we discussed whether they will need a Special Use Permit for this project – Rob [and board] advised them that they wouldn't 'need' a SUP but that it would be advisable to get one to protect their interests in the future. They agreed and will start the procedure with Robs help, probably starting this project mostly in spring.

Sawmill request – Mr. Jethro Beachy is planning on building a small sawmill on one acre of land on Kneeland Road – he'll put in a request in spring for a SUP in spring

New member recruitment – The Comins Twsp Planning Commission is starting a search for a new member – Mr. John Kuzel addressed the commission introducing himself as a possible recruit – Rob said his name would be added to the list of people to be considered for same in the new year

Dan Swartzendruber reluctantly presented a letter of resignation as a member of the Commission and the Chair of same. The Commission voted to accept his resignation thanking Dan for his valued service and wise management of our Commission. 1st Jerry Kunnath, 2nd Arisa Handrich – all in favor of same. Arisa Handrich, vice chair, will take over as Chair in the interim

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm

Jerry motioned 1st, John 2nd for adjournment – all in favor

Respectfully submitted by Jerry Kunnath, Comins Twsp Planning Comm. Secr