

Comins Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

August 8th, 2024

Call to order/Pledge – 7:00

Roll Call: Kyle Yoder, pres., John McConnell pres., Jerry Kunnath, abs, Arisa Handrich, pres., John Kuziel II, pres., Rob Murphy, pres.,

Approval of Minutes from July- Motion: John McConnell, 2nd: Arisa Handrich

Guests – Larry Wilson

Public Comment – None

New Business –

- -Discussed issues experienced by community
 - Only had two members of public join
 - One expressed continued concern about neighborhood seeing more blight accumulate and need to ordinance
 - Other expressed that they did not support blight ordinance, but agreed with how board was approaching and investigating the topic
- Guest: Larry Wilson, Blight Enforcement Officer for Big Creek Township
 - Recommends considering “Nuisance” ordinance
 - Recommending for their own township based on legal advice
 - Allows to expand items that can be controlled as nuisance to community
 - May include loud music, off-road vehicle issues, domestic disturbances and also cover blight.
 - Larry has worked with Big Creek for 1.5 years
 - Starts with two letters and then escalates to fines
 - Works with people to understand circumstances
 - Looks for opportunities to see things fixed and not just write citations
 - Most people will fix issue without further action
 - Continued issues can escalate to court, incur legal fees and eventually have expenses charged against their property taxes
 - Does require routine talks with legal counsel
 - Accepts calls for complaints, but does not seek out issues
 - Starts with investigations and review of property
 - Does not directly got to door, always starts with letter
 - Does get about 10 “false-alarm” calls monthly

- Board was favorable to proceeding and wanted to emphasize the need to also look for opportunities for civic involvement to help those in need of assistance
- Rob Murphy said that biggest issues he received calls on are cars, garbage and obvious long-standing issues

-Old Business:

Next Steps on Blight Ordinance:

- John K and Kyle will draft letter to recommend further review of blight ordinance by Township Board, to be reviewed at meeting in September

Old Business –

Adjournment -Motion: John Kuziel, 2nd: John McConnell

Meeting adjourned – 8:45 PM

Next meeting – September 12th, 2024

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Kyle Yoder