

Milton Township  
Planning Commission  
Unapproved Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2019

Members present: Chairman Hefferan, Kingon, Merillat, Lefebvre, and Kopkau.

Members absent: Cole and Murphy.

Also present: 1 audience member.

Hefferan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of meeting minutes dated February 12, 2019:

Corrections: Page 1 after Murphy's comment add: "Kingon stated that Susan Mohr made the more compelling complaint when she addressed the Planning Commission."

Page 2 change Shan to Shen.

Page 2 add Planning Commission after "Becky Lancaster with the Village of Elk Rapids" and after "Shan Smith of Elk Rapids Township."

Page 2 add after Murphy's comment – "... broader community." "Kingon stated that the Subcommittee has heard from both extremes; those who want no vacation rentals and those who want no limits on vacation rentals. He believes that the Subcommittee has proposed a reasonable compromise within the parameters established by the Board."

**Motion** by Kingon to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Kopkau. **Motion carried.**

Township Board Report:

Hefferan said there was an update to the McKimmy septic agreement allowing him to pump out every three years instead of every year. Fred Gulick gave a presentation regarding shoreline protection. Nick Lefebvre read a letter regarding his opposition to the township changing the vacation rentals ordinance.

Agenda:

1. Vacation Rentals Subcommittee.
2. Event Barns Subcommittee.
3. Review Bylaws.
4. Set agenda for April meeting.

**Motion** by Kopkau to approve the agenda. Seconded by Kingon. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment:

Fred Gulick gave a presentation regarding his disagreement with the shoreline protection strip section of the ordinance. He considers it a taking by the township.

1. Vacation Rentals Subcommittee:

The latest draft has been sent to the township board. Brett Pharo has submitted comments. Kingon said the subcommittee has not met since last meeting but will schedule a meeting when Cole returns from vacation. We will review Pharo's comments and any others that come in. It is planned that the July tax newsletter will announce a public hearing that will be held for the issue.

2. Event Barns Subcommittee:

Lefebvre presented minutes from the last meeting dated March 6, 2019. The subcommittee is focused on keeping the ordinance simple and concentrate on keeping people safe at these events. Merillat asked if our fire department can handle this kind of request? Lefebvre has not discussed it with them yet. One issue is making sure this is an accessory or secondary income for a farm, rather than a primary source of income. Next meeting will be scheduled at a later date. Next steps are to meet again and review best examples of other ordinances and we will put together a draft. In early April, some members will attend the MTA Conference that has a session scheduled that covers this issue.

3. Review Bylaws:

Hefferan said historically we have asked people to identify themselves before they speak. What gives us the right to ask someone for that information? In the Open Meetings Act, attending a meeting is one thing, but speaking is another thing. The Open Meetings Act then defers to the bylaws of the body. Our bylaws do not state what should be done. Hefferan said Weinzapfel's thoughts were to ask if they would give a name and address, but they are not required to do so. The board members do not feel the bylaws need to be changed at this time.

Without objection, the bylaws will remain the same for 2019.

4. Set agenda for April.

1. Special Events Subcommittee.
2. Vacation Rental Subcommittee.
3. Set agenda for May meeting.

Meeting adjourned by order of the chair at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Merillat