

Milton Township
Planning Commission
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2021

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

Also present: Three audience members.

Members absent: Lefebvre.

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

Approval of meeting minutes dated July 13, 2021:

Corrections:

Pg 1, TESA, not TESSA.

Pg 4, 4th paragraph, the State of Michigan.

Pg 4, last paragraph, Torch River Road.

Pg 5, 5th paragraph, application dated March 16.

Pg 5, 6th paragraph, change to March 16 and correct: Hefferan.

Pg 7: 6th paragraph, second sentence D should be E.

Pg 9: 3rd paragraph, remove A, should be C, D, and G.

Motion by Cole to approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Ford. **Motion carried.**

ZA Position Update:

Interviews are ongoing.

ZBA Report:

Kingon said the ZBA was scheduled to meet in August, but this meeting was moved to September due to a lack of a Zoning Administrator.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

Agenda:

1. Providing public remote access to meetings.
2. Winery Ordinance Subcommittee (amendment request withdrawn 04/19/21).
3. Steep Slopes: Subcommittee Update.
4. Road Ends: Create subcommittee to review.
5. Set agenda for September 14 meeting.

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

1. Providing public remote access to meetings:

Hefferan said we have been providing remote access to meetings during COVID. Many of our residents are transient in the winter and some said they hoped this would be possible moving forward. Hefferan said he would approach the township board on the matter if the Planning Commission feels it would be desirable. Cole said you could not just go with one board doing it, it would be all open meetings. Then, you get into the question of people remotely having input? Would it drag out meetings, but not

accomplish anything? It does have real advantages when people are out of town. I would not want to see us do something and have it be amateurish, but should we hire someone to do it and set the system up well and train us to use it. We could be forced to do something like this if we have many people who want to participate. Hefferan said the county does a great job of managing remote participants. Kingon said he has watched the county and they go topic by topic and they have comment related to the topic. Hefferan said the public comment is at the start and end, not topic by topic. Kingon would like to be as transparent as we can. People who go away in the winter accuse us of passing things while they are gone, so it would be good have it available. Kopkau asked if members could dial in. Hefferan said he was not sure if that was possible or not. The rules were changing. Merillat said he does not think there is enough going on in Milton Township to warrant it. Cole will discuss it with the Township Board.

2. Winery Ordinance:

As subcommittee was set up June of 2020 to look at amending our winery ordinance. The subcommittee did a lot of work on drafting new language. On April 19, 2021 that the amendment request was withdrawn by the applicant. Hefferan asked where we go from here. Kingon said the subcommittee has not met. The letter from the applicant was turned over to Vermitten to review. He has not sent any comments back. This will be a point of follow up with the new ZA. The whole topic of short term rentals is being legislated at the state level and that affects how we were dealing with this topic. It appears that Waterfire is not operating in compliance with the Vacation Rental ordinance at this point. Hefferan said the feedback early from Vermitten is that our winery ordinance is legal and defensible. Kingon said Vermitten suggested we look at our Vacation Rental ordinance in the AG zone. The argument is that the short term rentals could be more liberal in the AG zone. Kingon suggested we wait to hear from Vermitten.

3. Steep Slopes: Subcommittee Update:

Ford said it would be good to go get a topographic study done. Merillat said he believes we have had this done before. The subcommittee has not met yet. The first question is do we want a steep slopes ordinance? What are we trying to solve or prevent? What would this entail? Tentative date for the subcommittee meeting is September 2nd at 9:00am.

4. Road Ends: Create Subcommittee:

The township board is looking for clarification on our road ends and what is allowed and not allowed and should it be changed. Kingon, Merillat, and Cole will be on this subcommittee. They will meet September 2nd at 10:00am.

5. Set agenda for September Meeting:

1. Steep Slopes Subcommittee.
2. Road Ends Subcommittee.
3. Set agenda for October Meeting.

Meeting adjourned by order of the chair at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Merillat