

Milton Township
Planning Commission
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2021

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

Also present: Sara Kopriva

Members absent: Lefebvre.

Hefferan called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

Agenda:

Introductions and dialogue: Sara Kopriva.

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

Board members introduced themselves to Kopriva. Kopriva introduced herself to the board and gave her background. Wednesday from 1-3pm will be her office hours. The board is working on hiring an assistant who will be in the office more frequently. The plan is to attend meetings and maintain board organization. Discussion on her prior meeting commitments which means that our planning commission will need to move meeting dates if she is to attend.

Cole asked about communications and how best to reach Kopriva. She will be checking email and voicemail every day. Phone number and email address is the same as before.

Cole said you have been working with Torch Lake Township in a similar position. Kopriva discussed how that is working.

Kingon asked if Kopriva had any time to meet with Weinzapfel. She has spent some time with him. We have three activities that are not common to other townships including short term rentals, septic inspections, and shoreline protection.

Hefferan said you have mentioned zoning and planning. Help us understand what we can ask of you and what we can expect. Kopriva said she will be reviewing staff reports, reviewing site plans, making sure you have information you need, helping with drafting ordinance language and public hearings. She brought up the review of the master plan and making a decision on how you want to do that. This is work she can do.

Hefferan asked about getting permits electronically. Kopriva said she would like to get things available on the website to allow people to help themselves.

Kopriva discussed sustainable tourism. Kingon said he was in a meeting with the Elk Rapids Planning Commission. They have no room in Elk Rapids for affordable housing so they are thinking about surrounding townships as a way to accommodate that.

Kopriva will put a proposal together for the work needed for the master plan.

Hefferan asked about special land use permit. Hefferan discussed process regarding how these permits would be handled. Kopriva liked the process of having the commission see it first so more information can be requested. Merrillat said there are many places in the site plan review where we have discretion.

Merrillat said historically correspondence has gone through the ZA. Should we continue to do this? Yes. Do not communicate directly with each other.

Cole said traditionally our subcommittees would meet with applicants and provide suggestions informally.

Hefferan asked about possible dates and times for the PC meeting. After discussion, we will keep our meetings on the second Tuesday each month through January when we will set our meeting dates and times for the next year.

Cole said he got a phone call from the neighbors who are feuding over noise. Cole said he told him it is a civil action. He is saying his only alternative is to get a bigger speaker and blast noise back. One of his complaints is that we have a noise ordinance for rentals, but not for our permanent residences.

Meeting adjourned by order of the chair at 5:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Merrillat