

Milton Township
Planning Commission
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2021

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

Also present: Six audience members.

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

Approval of meeting minutes dated September 14, 2021:
Minutes approved as presented by **unanimous consent**.

Approval of special meeting minutes dated September 20, 2021:
Minutes approved as presented by **unanimous consent**.

ZA Report:

Hefferan said the Planning Commission met with Sarah Kopriva last month at a special meeting. She sent her report for this meeting via email. Jackie Peterson is assisting her in the office. A new application for a RV park has been submitted and is being reviewed. Members of the commission have not seen the application yet. There will be a ZBA meeting this Thursday and there is an application for the November meeting. Joe Rennis was appointed to the Planning Commission to replace Terri Kopkau. He will start in November.

Lefebvre had a general inquiry from a person who is doing a Discovery Channel show and he purchased land in Milton Township to film the show. He said he has been in talks with the township and everyone knows what is going on. Lefebvre said she wants to make sure everyone is aware. He said it is 10.7 acres of AG property in South Milton.

Agenda:

1. Steep Slopes Subcommittee Report.
2. Road End Subcommittee Report.
3. Meeting Dates.
4. Set agenda for November meeting.

Public Comment:

Pat Scarnulous of Torch Lake Drive asked the Planning Commission to listen to the people. We have people who would like these meetings to go back to Zoom. It is important that we stay in touch on items that impact the RV Park. We want to stay on top of this and we need communication to get out to us. He also brought up a safety issue at the bridge. He is concerned about how many trees were taken out and when those roots begin to decay there could be landslides.

Steve Jessmore of Torch River Road asked to be made aware of the meetings. We have stopped

coming up on weekends and holidays because of the congestion. This is a resource and it should be cared for.

Mary Scarnulous of Torch Lake Drive is also concerned about not having meetings on Zoom. We have to be aware of what is going on. As far as we are concerned, nothing has changed in the park area. We are concerned. She said her hearing is bad and it is better for her on Zoom.

Sally Methisian of Torch Bridge Court said she would like to be able to enjoy her property. We do not need an RV park in our back yard. She would like to have meetings on Zoom. There was a shooting at the boat launch and with more people and I am not seeing the wildlife I used to see. It is like they are being driven out.

Ann Hubbard of Wabagamma Drive said the RV park issue is important to her and she would like to make sure meetings are on Zoom when she cannot be here in person. She asked if/when questions were allowed?

Linda Spevaseck did not think last month's meeting minutes reflected her comments accurately. She spoke against the RV Park for many reasons. It is important that people take a pause and look at what matters for the village at Torch River Bridge. Let us put on the brakes and look at the Master Plan and stop all special permit reviews for a period of time and get this right. She presented two letters from other residents.

John Spevaseck complimented the board on their work and expects them to do the same with the next application.

Hefferan said he is very conscious of making the public aware of the progress of what is going on with this new application. It is easy for us to reach out to one person and that person will communicate with many people. We cannot shut down in the winter, but we understand the concerns of the snow-bird population.

In regard to Zoom, it was brought to the township board to see if they would be interested in getting the necessary equipment to have Zoom meetings and they were not interested. However, if we get to another public hearing for the RV Park, we should have it on Zoom in order to provide access. We are aware of the problems at the Torch River Bridge. Kopriva has given a proposal to the Township Board to update the Master Plan. This is our chance to work on major issues and I hope the public is actively involved in building the Master Plan as this is the foundation of everything we do.

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

1. Steep Slopes Subcommittee:

The Subcommittee was formed May 11, 2021. Cole, Ford, and Lefebvre are on the Subcommittee. Lefebvre said that there is some good information that has been made available to us from Antrim County and other townships and municipalities. Kopriva will reach out and set a meeting date.

2. Road Ends Subcommittee:

Hefferan asked the Township Board last night for clear direction on what they are seeking. Kopriva and Derman will get together and we will wait to hear back from them. This Subcommittee is suspended until we hear back from them.

3. Meeting Dates:

Hefferan said to think about what dates work for Planning Commission meetings since Kopriva is not available to attend on the second Tuesday evenings of each month. Give some thought as to what works best and then we will discuss it. He is open to all suggestions, even possibly meeting during daytime hours.

4. Set agenda for November meeting:

1. Steep Slopes Subcommittee.
2. 2022 Meeting Dates.
3. Set agenda for December meeting.

Lefebvre asked to reconvene the winery subcommittee. She said a lot of effort and time was put into it. Hefferan said the application was withdrawn.

Lefebvre thanked Kopkau for her service and congratulated her on her retirement.

Meeting adjourned by order of the chair at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Merillat