

October 11, 2018

The Portage Township Planning Commission (PC) October 11, 2018 meeting was called to order by chair Melanie Watkins at 7:00 PM. Present were Watkins, Ted Soldan, Dave Rulison, Connie Sherry, John Ligon, Jeff Koski, and Peggy Anderson. Guests Bruce Peterson, Amy Moyle, Gary Moyle, Marissa Wichman, Sandy Manninen, Ken Manninen, Brenda Papke, Mark Korkko, Donald Manninen, Tammy Waller, John Ollila, Sally Santeford, Tony Papke, and Jacob Manchester were also present.

The township planning commission went around the table and introduced themselves. Then the members of the community that were present introduced themselves.

Chair Melanie Watkins recognized township board member John Ollila, gave a talk about the history of the Moyle gravel pit, and brought us up to date on the proposed sand pit and the proposal on the table for the planning commission.

Watkins explained she had contacted the DNR to determine whether the proposed sand pit would be considered a mine. She reported that as long as nothing "metallic" is being dug for, it is not a mine in the opinion of the DNR.

Watkins then recognized Gary Moyle. He explained the proposed sand pit was a replacement for the place they are currently hauling 8-10 thousand ton. Using this new site would decrease the haul by 4 miles. The parcel of land is about 150 acres, and they plan to use a 1-2 acre portion which they will strip of vegetation and use a loader to load their dump trucks. The site of the pit will be unseen from the road due to the heavy tree cover. Moyle expressed willingness to locate the driveway access road to a location that is not right across the road from a home. He said there will be no facilities onsite. He felt there would be enough sand at that location for a lifetime of use by his company. He said there would be low dust from this operation because of the quality of the sand.

Sandy Manninen was recognized next. She said she lived directly across from the proposed sand pit. She wondered where the road into the site would be located? Some discussion ensued, and it was determined that the county road commission would have a say in where the driveway would be located. She asked if Moyle planned to sell sand to others? Moyle answered they have no plans at this time. She then asked where the extraction would take place, and received an answer from Moyle.

Tammy Waller was recognized next. She said she worried about groundwater contamination, and that the ecosystem would be destroyed. She felt that hydraulic fluid would go into the ground, which will destroy local well water and wildlife.

Brenda Patke was recognized next. She said her family had lived near the proposed pit since 1905. She wondered why Moyle chose this particular site? Moyle answered it was the best and cleanest sand he could find in the area. She wondered how much sand was on this 156

acres? Moyle said he didn't think they could ever use as much sand as there is on the site. She wondered if the goal is to be the largest operation in the area? When the sand is exhausted in the hillside, will they then dig a deep pit?

Tony Patke was recognized next. He asked where they would start digging? At the top of the hill or 30-40 feet down?

Jacob Manchester was recognized next. He asked if the plan was to excavate the entire hill? As a resident of the area, he also expressed concerns about noise and hours of operation. He wondered if it wouldn't be a danger to have large trucks pulling out onto the road.

Brenda Patke spoke again. Once the sand is removed, will the topsoil be replaced? Moyle said yes.

An anonymous member of the audience asked how many acres of the parcel being purchased is sand? Moyle said 90 acres. He was asked if they intended to limit the pit to only 5 acres? Moyle said no. Anonymous also made the point that we all use aggregate in our daily lives. We use it in the blocks in our house foundations, in our driveways, and in our roads. This material has to come from somewhere.

John Ollila said the proximity of the pit to the local stream is permitted by the DEQ.

Brenda Patke said there are many springs on this parcel of land. What will happen to the springs as a result of the sand pit? Moyle said he didn't know.

John Ollila again spoke up and said that throughout the entire matter of the Moyle gravel pit, that he found Gary Moyle to always be truthful. "He never lied to me," said John.

Mark Korkko spoke next. He is the property manager for the current owners of the property Moyle is proposing to purchase. He said they recently logged the parcel because of the fine sand. He said 125 loads of logs came out of there on large trucks, and no one complained. He estimated that the proposed sand pit would occupy about 3% of the property.

One member of the audience spoke up to say there are better places to get sand.

Concern was raised from Soldan about the safety children playing around the sand pit area. Moyle said there were plans in place to address this issue.

A question was asked about access to the property by the general public. Moyle said the gate would stay open all winter. He felt access to the property would not change for a long time.

Chair Watkins attempted to close comments at 8:20 pm. Many comments followed.

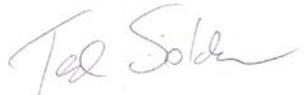
Soldan made a motion to approve the sand pit with the same restrictions (as applicable) that are in place at the Moyle gravel pit. The motion was seconded by John Ligon. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. The motion passed on a vote of 6-1.

The stormwater ordinance was discussed next. Watkins said she took the Houghton storm water ordinance and modified it to fit Portage Township.

The master plan was discussed next. Soldan volunteered to work with supervisor Peterson on this project.

A motion was made by Soldan at 8:53 to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Rulison and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Soldan".

Ted Soldan, Secretary

P.C. meeting 10/1/18

Gary Moyle

Amy Moyle

Marissa Nichinan

Sandy Manneren

Kent Manneren

Brenda Packey

Mark Hill

Daniel Manneren

Tammy Wells

John Ollila

Sally Santini

Tony Pepple
Jacob Manchester