

Portage Township Planning Commission

Minutes, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting, September 14, 2023

Present: Boerman, Cronin, Sherry, Soldan, Anderson

Absent: Griffis, Ligon

Public Present: Ollila

1. **Meeting called to order by Soldan at 7:00pm.**
2. Addition to Agenda: Anderson welcomes John Ligon back to the PC, would like to discuss November meeting date. Ollila wants agenda to note his presentation will cover:
 - Zoning enforcement
 - Stormwater management
 - Chickens
 - Merging B1/B2 districts.
3. Review of June 8 Minutes: Cronin will sign future minutes “secretary.”
 - **Motion to accept June 8 minutes as amended by Anderson, seconded by Boerman. Carried.**
4. Ollila presented:
 - MTA Checklist of Steps for ZO Text Amendment was reviewed, compared to existing procedure outlined in Township ZO Section 13.3.
 - In 13.2, MTA advises “or by Zoning Administrator” would be appropriate addition as one who may initiate a propose amendment.
 - Stormwater ordinance presentation: Needs to be revised to state something to the effect of “when PC determines stormwater plan is needed, this ordinance shall apply”. Also needs to add 100 year storm provision. ZO must specify what triggers need for stormwater plan as part of site plan review, e.g. one acre or larger etc.? PC will conduct research with MTA, City of Houghton, other relevant bodies. Township Board will make needed changes at next meeting.
 - B1/B2 issue: Discussion of zoning classifications in districts, possible merging of the categories into B2.
 - Chickens only currently permitted in RUR and FF. Ollila recommends if chickens are confined and no roosters, they are permitted in R districts.
 - ZO Enforcement: Board discussed and considering recommending replacing enforcement language with Marquette Township ZO penalties section.
5. No Public comments.
6. Cancel 10/19 meeting, next meeting November 30.
7. **Motion to Adjourn by Boerman, seconded by Anderson. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm**

Respectfully Submitted

Will Cronin, Secretary