

THORN TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION

Zoning Members Present: Rick McCance
Joe Blaine
Wayne Gniewkowski
Ed Corns, Zoning Inspector
Deborah Morgan, Zoning Secretary

Guests Present: Arthur Davenport
Dana Wilson
Dave MacMillan
Barb Wilson
John Palmer

Meeting: Date: 04/11/2016
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Thorn Township Building

Rick Shephard
Mary Shephard
Paul Miller
Cindy Eli
Jeffrey Fields
David Mattis
Pat Snider
Kim Foucht
Ron Dittoe
Jim Steiner
Teresa Steiner
Terry Lot
* Others whose names were
Unreadable on guest list

Regular Meeting

The minutes of the March 2016 regular zoning commission meeting were presented. Rick McCance made a motion to accept and approve the minutes as presented, Wayne Gniewkowski seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of all members present.

Several guests were in attendance to discuss an issue with a violation notice issued to them concerning a sign that was recently installed. Terry Lot and Jim Steiner spoke on behalf of the Amvets and voiced their concerns with this violation asking the zoning commission what their rights were in regards to disagreeing with this violation and also questioned the current zoning regulations regarding signs. Chairperson Joe Blaine explained to the guests present that the zoning commission does not control the Zoning Inspector and are not the judicial body for zoning. He further explained that the zoning commission reviews the regulations and plans any new rules or changes that may need to be handled with the zoning regulations. The BZA (Board of Zoning Appeals) would be the board that they need to make contact with to discuss appealing the violation notice that they received. Numerous guests spoke (without stating their names for the record) about their disagreement with the current zoning regulations and also the Zoning Inspector's issuance of this violation notice. Debate took place on the illumination of this sign and who decides and how is it decided that it is too bright, therefore making this a non-conforming sign. After much discussion Chairperson Blaine explained to the guests that, as the zoning commission, they will look into the part of the zoning regulation dealing with this issue to review for any needed changes for the future. He stated that he understands that the Amvets members have come to this meeting wanting answers and the zoning commission can't handle their immediate concerns. Mr. Blaine explained that they need to contact Todd Brune, the Chairperson of the BZA, to be placed on the agenda of their next meeting to discuss this issue. Several of the guests wanted the Zoning Inspector to explain what and why this violation notice was issued. Discussion on this continued. The Zoning Inspector was questioned again, asking him to explain his issues with this sign, so that the record of this meeting would reflect those issues. Inspector Corns stated that the sign was a non-conforming sign according to the current zoning resolution. Others in attendance of this meeting began to voice their personal opinions of the Zoning Inspectors interpretations of the Zoning Regulations in regards to this issue. After further debate Zoning Chairperson Blaine once again advised Mr. Lot and Mr. Steiner as to what steps they need to follow to bring this issue in front of the BZA. Mr. Lot and Mr. Steiner stated that they would make contact with Todd Brune as soon as possible.

Comprehensive Plan

A brief discussion was held on the status of the Comprehensive Plan and further discussion will be held once the plan has been completed and is ready for its review.

Agenda items for the next meeting scheduled for 05/09/2016 will be the comprehensive plan and open items for discussion. After no further business the meeting was adjourned by Joe Blaine at 6:56 p.m.

Joe Blaine, Chairman

Deborah Morgan, Secretary