

## THORN TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION

**Zoning Members Present:** Wayne Gniewkowski  
Ronald Bonnette  
Brad Blain  
Mark Huggins  
Joe Blaine  
Ed Corns, Zoning Inspector  
Deborah Morgan, Zoning Secretary

**Guests Present:**

**Meeting:** Date: 08/12/2019  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Thorn Township Building

The Thorn Township Zoning Commission Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joe Blaine at 6:00 p.m., by saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Roll call was taken and all members were present.

The July 2019 regular Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes were distributed. Brad Blain made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Wayne Gniewkowski seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and the motion passed by a unanimous vote of all members present.

### **Proposed Fence Regulations**

The revised draft of the proposed fence regulations was distributed to the board for review. The following subjects were discussed in regards to the draft:

- Open fence, the description of
- Heights of fences along shoreline
- Line of site issues/right of way
- Shrubbery in front yards and what constitutes a fence in regards to numbers of shrubs planted
- “Enclose” or “partially enclosed” terminology and how it is defined in regards to shrubs/hedges
- Removal of “walls and hedges” from the draft language
- Landscape plantings

After discussion it was decided to delete all wordings of wall/hedge/landscape plantings in the regulations section of the draft. Ron Bonnette stated that he believes that landscaping doesn't have anything to do with it. Discussion was also held on eight (8) foot high fencing, in regards to safety. What is considered open fences, clear view fences, and partially open fences was also discussed.

Mark Huggins stated that he appreciates the effort made by the board but if this goes through as it is written he is going to work on getting the language the way he wants it. Ron Bonnette questioned Mr. Huggins to clarify that he would push for more fence

regulations. Mr. Huggins stated that he will push for more fence regulations for water front properties and for fences that do not obscure views for water front properties. Ron Bonnette wanted to make sure Mr. Huggins statements were included in the minutes.

Other points discussed were:

- HOA's (Homeowner's Associations)
- Debate on different fences in Township in regards to views of the lake

Joe Blaine made a motion to set up a public hearing for the proposed language as edited throughout the meeting, Wayne Gniewkowski seconded the motion. Ron Bonnette stated that he is against this, he believes that this is an infringement on rights, it is unnecessary, and everyone should vote no, it's ridiculous. After no further discussion roll call was taken and the motion passed by a vote of three (3) in favor (Blaine, Gniewkowski, Huggins) and two (2) against (Bonnette, Blain). The public hearing will be set for September 9, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. The notice of the meeting will be placed in the Perry County Tribune for two weeks, as the Tribune is the paper that the Township must place the ad in. It will also be advertised on Facebook as well. Ron Bonnette stated that the Township should spend money to send notices to everyone in the Township. The proposed document will be sent to the Zoning Inspector and he will post it on Facebook and the website.

### **Other Items for Discussion**

Zoning Inspector Ed Corns reported the most recent permits, they are as follows:

- New build on Highpoint
- New build on Twp. Rd. 15
- Covered porch in Firemen's Park
- New build in Snug Harbor
- New build in Heron Bay
- Accessory building on King Road
- Lot split at 188 and Ridenour

The Inspector was questioned about the food truck located by the Subway, it was discussed and the Inspector stated that it is legal as far as our current zoning regulations.

After no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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Joe Blaine, Chairman

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Deborah Morgan, Secretary