

THORN TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION

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

Guests Present: Don Waller
Jeff Zemalng

Meeting: Date: 02/11/19
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Thorn Township Building

2019 Organizational Meeting

The Thorn Township Zoning Commission Organizational Meeting was called to order by Wayne Gniewkowski, who was filling in for 2018 Zoning Chair Joe Blaine due to his absence, at 6:00 p.m. by saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Roll call was taken and all members were present except for Joe Blaine. Nominations for 2019 Zoning Chairperson and Co-Chairperson were made and Joe Blaine was nominated for Chairperson and Wayne Gniewkowski was nominated for Co-Chairperson. Mark Huggins made a motion to approve the nominations and Brad Blain seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote of members present. The 2019 meeting schedule time was discussed and it was moved by Ron Bonnette to keep the meetings on the same night of the month and time, the motion was seconded by Mark Huggins. Motion passed by a unanimous vote of members present.

Regular February Monthly Meeting (start time – 6:05 p.m.)

The December 2018 regular Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes were distributed. Ron Bonnette wanted to clarify and have it documented in the minutes that he is in opposition of the fence regulations. It was stated that the minutes of the current meeting will reflect his opposition to the fence regulations. Ron Bonnette also stated that he would like the minutes distributed to the board members sooner for more time to review. Discussion was held and it was decided that the minutes would be sent one week prior to the regular monthly meeting dates which would be the first Monday of each month. Discussion was also held on board members notification of the inability to attend a meeting. It was decided that the board members would notify the secretary 24 hours prior to the meeting if they are unable to attend. Brad Blain made a motion to accept the December 2018 Zoning Meeting Minutes, Mark Huggins seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of members present.

Guest Don Waller wanted to know what items have been discussed on fencing regulations in past meetings. Mr. Waller also wanted to know why the minutes from the meetings have not been posted on the website. It was explained to Mr. Waller that the website is maintained by a third party and it has been difficult recently to get in contact with the website provider. Further discussion was held on this issue, Zoning Inspector Ed Corns stated that he would mention this issue at the next Trustee's meeting.

Ron Bonnette stated that Mark Huggins should recuse himself from any voting on fencing regulations, Mr. Bonnette stated that in the past Mr. Huggins has stated that this issue personally affects him and therefore he should recuse himself. Discussion was held. A suggestion was made that Mr. Bonnette's point on this issue versus Mr. Huggins point should be discussed with the township's zoning attorney for clarification.

Mr. Waller wanted to know what regulations were discussed in regards to pools. It was explained to Mr. Waller that discussions were about different areas of zoning, verbiage of any proposed regulations and just the pros and cons of fencing regulations in general. Continued discussion was held on the pros and cons of fencing regulations.

Zoning Inspector Report

Zoning Inspector Ed Corns reported that the fence in Fireman's Park that sparked the issue of fencing regulations has been through litigation and it has been agreed to be removed and may be placed on the owner's property that is off of the right-of-way.

End of 2018 Zoning Report:

Permits for the year:

- 18 new builds
- 16 accessory buildings
- 4 remodels
- 3 boat docks
- 7 pools
- 5 decks
- 1 commercial
- 1 commercial sign
- 1 voided permit
- 8 lot splits
- 2 agriculture exempts

Other:

- 6 complaints filed in 2018, 4 of the 6 has been resolved within the year.
- 5 variances
- Total fees collected \$27,279 which was down from 2017

Discussion was held on the finances of the zoning department and how the yearly appropriations are made. Inspector Corns stated that the Trustees will be discussing the current fee structures for zoning.

Brad Blain questioned Inspector Corns if a township resident has made contact with him on a zoning issue. Inspector Corns informed Mr. Blain that he has not received any calls or messages.

The agenda for the next regular zoning meeting will be fence regulation discussion and open items for discussion. After no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.