

THORN TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: 6/14//2021

Meeting Type: Regular Monthly Meeting

Meeting Location: Meeting held via Zoom

Board Members Present: Wayne Gniewkowski, Jim Hay, Brad Blain, Mark Becker, Mark Huggins

Zoning Department Members Present: Ed Corns, Zoning Inspector & Deborah Morgan, Zoning Secretary

Guests Present: Chip McNeer, Bob Coleman, Marsha Hall, Nancy's Iphone

The June 14, 2021 regular monthly meeting of the Thorn Township Zoning Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Wayne Gniewkowski. Roll call was taken and all members were present via Zoom.

The Minutes of the May 2021 meeting were reviewed. Brad Blain moved to accept the meeting minutes as presented, Mark Becker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote of all members present.

Cloud Zoning

Chairperson Gniewkowski recapped the idea of cloud zoning and wanted to know if the board members had a chance to review and if so, what were their thoughts. Mark Becker stated that he had a chance to skim through both examples. Mr. Becker stated that one was easier to understand and follow. Jim Hay stated that he sees a lot of merit in it and is open for discussion on cloud zoning. Zoning Inspector Ed Corns stated that it looks to be a simpler form of zoning but he will remain neutral on the subject and leave the decisions to the board. Chairperson Gniewkowski stated that he will contact Zoning Attorney Pete Griggs to see if he could attend a meeting to answer questions about cloud zoning and his experience on the subject. After further discussion it was decided the zoning attorney would be contacted to create a rough draft of cloud zoning for the board to review and discuss.

Temporary Pools

Chairperson Gniewkowski wanted to know if the board members had a chance to review the sample of the temporary pool language. Mark Becker stated that anything the board does should be measurable. Brad Blain had questions on the size. Zoning Inspector Corns stated that they could add language to specify sizes and different types of pools. Brad Blain stated that the wording would need to be clear. Chairperson Gniewkowski stated that he would request the zoning attorney to draft some sample language to review along with the cloud zoning.

Open Items for Discussion

None

Zoning Inspector Report

Zoning Inspector Ed Corns reported the following permits for May 2021.

- New build on Twp. 493
- New build on St. Rt. 188
- Inground Pool on St. Rt. 188
- Above ground pool on Twp. Rd. 500
- Ag Exempt on Twp. 98
- New build on Shoreline Dr.
- Accessory building on St. Rt. 204
- Lot split St. Rt. 13 & Twp. Rd. 37
- New build on Highpoint
- Cell Tower on Twp. Rd. 37
- New build on McMurray Way
- New build on McMurray Way

Inspector Corns reported about a complaint concerning junk vehicles East of Thornville. Inspector Corns informed the board that the current Township Zoning Regulations do not adequately and legally address how junk vehicles should be handled. Inspector Corns will contact the zoning attorney to see the cost of having the attorney review the entire zoning resolution to make sure all language is legal and enforceable. The timeline of adopting any such zoning resolution changes was discussed. Inspector Corns also informed the board of a business that was operating in a residential district and stated that he is working with legal counsel and it is currently an open investigation but a resolution to the issue is currently being worked on.

Visitor Comments

Chip McNeer addressed the board informing them that there is a lot of development ahead for the Township and mentioned areas of the Township that they are interested in for future development. The zoning secretary questioned Mr. McNeer as to who “they” were that he was representing for clarification for the minutes. Mr. McNeer stated that he has been a liaison for ODNR but is a community volunteer currently.

Upcoming Meeting Agenda Items

The items for the next meeting agenda will be: Cloud Zoning, Temporary Pools, Junk Vehicles, & Open Items for Discussion.

After no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Deborah Morgan, Thorn Township Zoning Secretary