

THORN TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION

Zoning Members Present:

Ron White
Marci McCauley
Jeff Zemalong
Rick McCance

Todd Brune, Zoning Inspector
Deborah Morgan, Zoning Secretary

Guests Present:

Soup Dornon
Dale Factor

Meeting:

Date: 06/02/10
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Thorn Township Building

The regular Thorn Township Zoning Commission meeting was called to order by Marci McCauley by saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Roll call was taken and all members were present except for Jerry Nethers. The minutes of the May 2010 meeting were read by the Zoning Secretary and after no additions or corrections Ron White made a motion to approve the minutes as read, Jeff Zemalong seconded the motion, motion passed by a voice vote of all members present.

Zoning Inspector Todd Brune reported that he has addressed the concern brought to the Commissions attention at the last regular meeting, concerning the possibility of a business be operated within the Township that had not been reviewed by Zoning. Mr. Brune stated that he made contact with the owners and visited the property; the buildings on the property were also viewed. It was the Zoning Inspector's opinion that no business was being operated from this property. After a brief discussion it was decided by all members present that no action needs to be taken.

Discussion was held on having a checks and balance system on follow-ups in regards to variances. It was explained that with variances the checks and balances would take place when the lot would be prepped to build. The Inspector will be verifying that all steps of the variance had been met before any further steps would move forward.

The Township website was reviewed and it was reported by the Secretary that the additions previously suggested had been added. Discussion was held and it was decided that the list of Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals members be added along with the current zoning resolution. The Secretary will have the members and the resolution added to the website. The zoning fees being added were also mentioned and it was decided that the list of fees would be discussed at the next meeting.

A brief discussion was held on retaining an attorney for Zoning. It was decided that Rick McCance will contact an attorney to obtain a quote on what a retainer fee would be and will report back his findings during the next regular meeting.

Inspector Brune discussed his zoning proposal on boat docks. Jeff Zemalong voiced concerns over zoning regulating this issue. Trustee Dale Factor stated that in all his years as Zoning Inspector, boat docks were the #1 complaint by people in regards to their condition, size, height, and location. Mr. Zemalong wanted to know why our township would want to add this to the resolution when no other townships around the lake have zoning dealing with boat docks. Inspector Brune stated that Thorn Township is the only township on the lake that has channels that is not owned by the State. Rick McCance stated that voters voted for zoning, so people want zoning. Marci McCauley suggested a possible public forum meeting to bring in the public opinion to help Zoning get a feeling on their thoughts and ideas concerning this issue. After further discussion was held on this issue it was decided this subject will continue at the next regular meeting.

Open Items for Discussion

Agenda items for the next meeting were discussed and it was decided that Boat docks, commercial signs, and open items for discussion will be the agenda items for the July meeting.

After no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ron White and seconded by Jeff Zemalong. The meeting was adjourned by Marci McCauley at 8:25p.m.