

Leighton Township Planning Commission Minutes

Date: December 9, 2009

Members Present: Al Zuidema, Scott Chestnut, Harry DeHaan, Dave Wright,
Louis Murray, Brian Martin, Ron Schrotenboer

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mark Sisson, and 3 interested persons

Art. 1 Chairman Zuidema called a regular meeting of the Leighton Township Planning Commission to order at 7:30 pm at the Leighton Township Hall.

Art. 2 Minutes –
Minutes of the November 11, 2009 were approved as presented.

Art. 3 Public Comments – None

Art. 4 Inquiry of Conflict – None

Art. 5 Public Hearing – Amendments to the Leighton Township Zoning Ordinance

Chairman Zuidema opened the Public Hearing at 7:36pm. The purpose of the hearing was to receive comments on a series of zoning ordinance amendments intended to comprehensively revise certain existing chapters and sections of the zoning ordinance and to reformat the balance of the Zoning Ordinance for purposes of consolidation and codification.

Sisson gave a recap of each of the chapters in the ordinance with changes. The sequence of some of the chapters were changed, some consolidated and new definitions were put in place in some areas.

Chairman Al Zuidema opened the Public Hearing at 8:16 pm. Comments from:

Mary Lou Nieuwenhuis asked if the Planning Commission had discussed Agri-Tourism and wondered if it should be incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance. Other townships have had concerns with this issue. Areas of concerns are road side stands, pumpkin patches, corn mazes.

Discussion ensued to include the Agri-Tourism into Special Land Uses. Sisson will make the changes.

Public Hearing was closed at 8:26 pm.

Motion by Chestnut, supported by Murry to recommend to the Township Board approval of the Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance per the discussed changes and the following pages be replaced:

1. The first 4 pages(Cover and Table of Contents)
2. 2-20, 2-21 & 2-22 in the definitions to cover the addition of two new definitions: “Agricultural Tourism” and “Rural Tourism”.
3. Replace all of chapters 5 and 6.
4. Page 20-1 (to correct dock length from 250 to 150.)
5. Pages 20-11, 20-12 and 20-13 (Ag and Rural Tourism).
6. Page 30-1 (to correct Mary Lou’s last name).

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Chestnut, Martin, Wright, Zuidema, DeHaan,
Schrotenboer, Murry
Nay: None

All Ayes – Motion Carried

Art. 6 New Business –None

Art. 7 Unfinished Business – None

Art. 8 Other Business –None

Art. 9 Public Comment – (Comments are welcome from the public & limited to 5 minutes)-**None**

Art. 10 Commissioners Comments –

- a. Ron Schrotenboer suggested that the Planning Commission meet six times a year, instead of twelve times a year due to less business being conducted and also save money for the township. Discussion ensued with the schedule for meetings. Motion by Chestnut, supported by Wright to schedule twelve meetings a year, but try to handle business with six meetings next year.
- b. Motion by Chestnut, supported by Wright to cancel the January 13, 2010 meeting.
- c. Scheduled to be on the February 2010 meeting agenda:
 - Planning Commission 2010 Meeting Schedule
 - Vote for officers
 - Annual Report 2009 from the Planning Commission

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Shari Harmon, Recording Secretary
Leighton Township Planning Commission