

Columbia Township Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2017

Columbia Township Hall

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 pm by Al Baerren

Roll Call - Al Baerren (Chairman), Richard Curtis (Secretary), Kathy Curtis (Board Representative), Marcia Lukens, Tom Fry, Linda Miller, and Beverly Sherrer. All present. Also present is Catherine Kaufman the new Planning Commission Attorney.

Motion to approve the Agenda; Motion was made to approve the Agenda. Made by Tom Fry, seconded by Dick Curtis, All yes.

Motion to Approve the October 11, Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes with the addition of adding the time of opening the Public Hearing at 7:10pm. Moved by Tom Fry, seconded by Marcia Lukens. All yes except Linda Miller no.

Communications – None.

Reports - A monthly report by the Zoning Administrator, Patrick Hudson is attached.

Program and Public Hearing - None

Unfinished Business - Farm Market Alcohol Sales Zoning Ordinance Changes - The Township Attorney suggested that the Permitted Accessory Uses with Conditions (Item 4 on page 24) be moved to Special Use(Section 4.13) so that the Township Board has control. The GAAMP has more uses. This change will require an Open Meeting. Anything not covers by GAAMP is then controlled locally.

Motion: To direct the Zoning Administrator to prepare a Zoning Ordinance text amendment to consider changing the farm market accessory uses to special uses. The final motion will be developed by the Zoning Administrator with the help of the Township Attorney. Made by Marcia Lukens and seconded by Tom Fry. All yes with Linda Miller no.

Solar Energy Zoning Ordinance Changes – In order to maintain the rural character of the township it was suggested that a maximum size for size be established for solar farms.

Motion: To direct the Zoning Administrator to change the suggested Solar Energy Zoning Ordinance to establish a maximum size for commercial solar farms. Made by Dick Curtis and seconded by Kathy Curtis. All yes.

New Business – The Zoning Administrator has received an Application for Special Use for a blueberry winery, tasting room and sales. All were agreed that this would be a good fit for Columbia Township.

Motion – To direct the Zoning Administrator to develop a special use ordinance changes to permit special use wine making, tasting and sales in an Agricutral District. Made by Tom Fry and seconded by Kathy Curtis. All yes.

Discussion – We need to assemble an end of year report. Al Baerren remarked that we did not have a lot to report.

Discussion – We need to establish our meeting dates for next year. It was agreed that the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm was agreeable to the members. Dick Curtis will write up the resolution to be presented at the January meeting.

Public Comment - 8:20pm

Frank Grubesich – too many restrictions. Ken Speicher – no evidence from public. Bill Shrank, Kate Shrank – suggested only grow licenses for marihuana be considered. Peggy Marselletti – board does not listen.

Closed the Public Hearing at 8:36pm.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Tom Fry and seconded by Beverly Sherrer all yes 8:42pm.

Minutes by Richard A. Curtis(Secretary)