

Columbia Township
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 9, 2019
Columbia Township Hall 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Elrod @ 7p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: L. Elrod, D. Marcelletti, L. Miller, B. Sherrer

Absent: C. Case

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Marcelletti Seconded by L. Miller to approve the agenda.

Ayes- Sherrer, Elrod, Marcelletti, Miller. Nays- None

Approval of Previous Minutes

The wrong meeting minutes were in our packet and the June 11, 2019 meeting were not available to members so minutes could not be approved. Tabled until our next meeting.

Public Comment:

One comment on minute's procedure.

Public Hearing

None

New Business

None

Old Business

Discussion proposed text amendment Farm Market definition. Some members were concerned that farmers may abuse the definition other members feel information should not be deleted. A compromise was reached by having the definition refer citizens to the GAAMP

Moved by Marcelletti seconded by Miller changes to Farm Market definition:

Section 7.07-'F'

Remove the following sentences from the definition of Farm Market:

This includes roadside stands. It does not necessarily mean a physical structure such as a building and is considered part of a farm operation. At least 50 percent of the products marketed and offered for sale at a

farm market (measured as an average over a five-year time frame) must be produced on and by the affiliated farm. Farm products may be processed more extensively into a form that adds value and makes them more marketable for direct customer sales in accordance with Michigan laws, and then sold at the affiliated farm market, as long as allowed by local, state, and federal regulations. The farm market may operate year-around or seasonally, and may include activities to attract customers and facilitate retail trade business transactions when allowed by applicable local, state, and federal regulations. Farm markets must be located on property where zoning allows for agriculture and its related activities.

Add the words *in accordance with the GAAMPs for farm markets.*

So the revised definition will read as follows:

Farm Market: A Farm Market is a place or an area where transactions between a farm market operator and customers takes place in accordance with the GAAMPs for Farm Markets.

Motion carried, Ayes: Miller, Marcelletti, Sherrer, Elrod

Nays: none

Discussion Section 3.04 2e.2 Members reached a compromise to prohibit ancillary activities until such time as a review can take place after completion of the master plan update.

Moved by Miller second by Marcelletti to approve the following:

Section 3.04 2e Farm Market and roadside stand

2. Ancillary or affiliated activities that are beyond the scope of the GAAMP are prohibited.

Permitted accessory uses with conditions Renumbered will be removed

Motion carried. Ayes: Miller, Marcelletti, Sherrer, Elrod.

Nays: None

Due to the lateness of the hour, discussion on Master plan update tabled until future meeting.

Communications received

One communication received regarding Farm Markets.

Reports

Tasha Smalley, Zoning Administrator submitted June 2019 activity report.

Township Board Member report:

Trustee Sherrer reported to members that the ZBA draft text amendment was not posted in the required timeframe and will need to go in front of the board for approval again.

Public Comment Open at 8:50

Comments by community members regarding the current plight of Farmers in our community and in our state and that the Township needs to support them and give everyone a fair shake.

Public comment closed at 8:51

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:52 by I.. Miller Second by D. Marcellett

Ayes- All Nays- None

Respectfully submitted by Beverly Sherrer, Commissioner of Columbia Township Planning Commission

Approved on August 13, 2019.

Christy Case