

Newfield Township Planning Commission Meeting
September 8th 2022 7:00pm

Jennifer Sherburn announced the resignation of Co-Chair Jay P. and Brian S. from the Planning Commission

Chairperson Jennifer Sherburn called a meeting at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Jennifer S. present

Mike R. present

Rick R. present

Wayne F. present

Mary H. present

5 Members Present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from Aug, 11, 2022 Meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Wayne F. Support by Rick R. Passed 6-0.

Wayne F: I would like to move public comments to the end of the agenda, creating a space for public comment after the agenda items are addressed.

Motion for approval of agenda with public comment section being moved to the end of the agenda by Ferris, second by Roberson, Ayes-5, Nays-0; Motion passed 5-0

Approval of Agenda: Motion of approval from August meeting minutes from Wayne, second by Rick, Ayes-5, Nays-0; Motion passed 5-0.

Communications: None

Old Business

Mary, Jen and Rick met prior to the meeting to discuss Sign Ordinance as an open discussion. Concerns were brought to the board from township members including but not limited to; prolonged yard sale signs, profanity, and political signs.

Due to the fact that there are both federal and state laws in place over the majority of the concerning signs we found the current ordinance to be sufficient as presented at this time.

Review Jay and Jennifer's draft for request for quotation for ordinance

review. Steve- Would like to add another possible bidder.

Planning Commission- We should work on the Master Plan prior to overlooking any zoning ordinances. Maybe we can work on the plan and ask about overlooking the plan in the bid as well. The Master Plan is due to be reviewed and revised.

New Business:

Jennifer- Annual Review of Special Permits

I'm not sure an annual review was ever done. But a list of special use permits was last compiled in 1993 or 1994, which provided a basis for our compilation.

Steve: There are 22 total, some are still active. We will have to reach out to the owners of special use permits to verify if they are still active.

Steve- If there has been no activity for 12 months, the permit is relinquished.

Jennifer - At the previous PC meeting, a hard cap of marihuana facilities was requested by a member.

Wayne- I do not think we should address the hard cap on the facilities until the ballot initiatives are in, we will see where that goes from there.

Jim. D-I don't know if you know but we had to have a lawsuit in order to get the wording on the ballot.

Zoning Administrator comments:

Steve- Following up from last month's meeting, someone made a comment about the Legion not having to have a special use permit for entertainment.

The Legion was served a certified letter for violation.

Public Comments:

Francine- I thought the Master Plan said to tap into waterways, parks, nowhere does it say marihuana. Waterways.

Steve- We have cleaned up the Hightower park. We can only do so much with the money available and the amount of property we have.

David H. - There is a big group that doesn't want this town to change. I don't want this town to change. I do not want concrete behind the DPW. We go fishing back there.

Chris H.- I know the idea of bringing in the Marihuana farms was to bring in revenue, as it may be it didn't mesh. There are environmental concerns, concerns with the water. There could be a massive impact.

Peggy R- The Marihuana farms are getting saturated. It's all fine now but what issues might arise later. It smells.

Jim D- I appreciate Wayne's comment. Thanks for addressing the Master Plan needing to be looked over first.

Marihuana is not seen by the state as agricultural.

It does smell, different days are different but it does smell. I hang my clothes on line, and I have to walk into different businesses for work and I smell like pot.

Francine- What about droughts? Isn't it wiser to see where prices are?

Recommendation to the Township Board

Our current sign ordinance remains the same. No changes to be made at this time. Most issues which were brought up in concern currently fall under either State or Federal laws.

Adjournment

Rick motioned for adjournment Mike seconded. PC 5-0 to end the meeting.