

MINUTES OF THE ROOTSTOWN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, December 1, 2014

The special meeting of the Rootstown Township Trustees opened at 6:00 p.m. on December 1, 2014. Those in attendance were Trustees Joe Paulus, Dave McIntyre and Linda Hankins, Mark Tirpak, Zoning Inspector, Jordan Michael, Assistant Zoning Inspector and Julie Gonzales, Trustees Assistant.

The following members were present from the Zoning Commission: Karen Henry, Board Chairperson, George Tishma, Vice Chairman and Rob Swauger.

The following members were present from the Zoning Board of Appeals: Troy Cutright, Board Chairman, Patricia Saillant and Derek Ball.

Trustee Paulus opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss zoning plans for the future including potential zoning districts for Muzzy Lake and Sandy Lake communities.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Many residents from Muzzy Lake and Sandy Lake communities were present.

Becky Brittain, Secretary of the Sandy Lake, Inc. was present and said they are willing to provide any zoning information to the Trustees. Ms. Brittain presented copies of their zoning rules and regulations. Residents who live in the district do not own their land; they only own their homes. The City of Ravenna owns a major portion of the land which is mostly watershed. Ms. Brittain said there are only a few steps within the district that abide to zoning. They have to be a stockholder within the district, submit the footprints to their Board of Directors, put money in escrow set by the Board of Directors then a zoning liaison will be appointed to track the construction. They are under certain deed restrictions with the City of Ravenna.

Bruce Ahrens of Sandy Lake Road said the district was established in the 1950's. The Inc. pays one lump sum for the property taxes. Each homeowner pays their common property.

Joe Paulus said the districts will need to adjust to the Townships zoning regulations. We need to redo the updates to include the districts regulations. Some things we can not change, for instance the size of a lot.

Dave McIntyre asked what would stop a person from building. Ms. Brittain said it would usually be a legal issue.

Darren Batey of Sandy Lake Road said he is also a member of the Sandy Lake Inc. Board of Directors. Approximately five or six years ago a resident built a house on the lake with the Township zoning.

Leigh and Anita Herington of East Muzzy Lake were present. Mr. Herington said they have lived on the lake for approximately fifteen year with no zoning issues. Why now, why does anything have to be done? Joe Paulus said for instance, the lot size is not in compliance with our zoning laws not to mention safety concerns.

Mark said all the houses in the districts are non-conforming, insurance companies will not replace your house at its value if it burns down.

Another resident stated that there is a lot of flooding issues in the districts.

Amanda Maxine Wood said the flooding years ago was due to 76 being installed. Who's to say that all the construction from NEOMED could cause flooding in our area? Joe said that is State property and they do not abide by the Townships zoning regulations. They Board is currently in discussions with NEOMED about the zoning issues.

George Tishma of the Zoning Commission said he is not interested in Rootstown being a "University Town". We have no control over NEOMED's zoning.

Linda Hankins suggested speaking with other lake entities to see what their codes are.

Scott Fischer does not want to live with wrong regulations. We need to fix this.

Dave McIntyre suggested each district choose a representative and have a meeting with the Township Zoning Commission to establish guidelines. Ms. Brittian said their next Board of Directors meeting is Wednesday and they will appoint someone at that time.

Wayne Shaffer of East Muzzy Lake asks what guidelines they will have to work with. Linda suggested contacting Twin Lakes or Brady Lake Village to get an idea of their zoning.

Dick Wetzel said there is also conservation development.

The districts will be in contact with Joe Paulus or Karen Henry, Chairperson of the Zoning Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe asked how the communication is with each Board and the Trustees. They each would like the minutes of the zoning boards emailed to them or posted online. The Trustees minutes are currently emailed to each member of the Zoning Commission and posted on the Township website.

Joe said since Mary Ann Greer, Zoning Board of Appeals secretary will be retiring; Jordan can take the minutes of the Zoning Commission, but upon the recommendation of legal counsel should not take minutes of the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board may want to consider hiring one person to take the minutes of both the Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Trustees will discuss the vacancies on each zoning board at their next regular meeting.

The Zoning Board of Appeals would like to receive updates from the Zoning Commission.

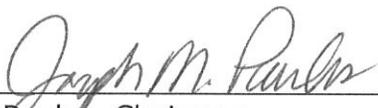
Joe has a meeting with D.B. Hartt on Friday to discuss the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The Trustees have created a JEDD Exploratory Committee.

Joe said if anyone is interested in attending the winter conferences or workshops to let him know.

Joe Paulus adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Paulus, Chairman



JoAnn Townend, Fiscal Officer