



The Rootstown Township Zoning Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 18, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at Rootstown Town Hall.

Present: George Tishma, Vice Chair
Rob Swauger
Steve Brown
Bob Moses
Theresa Summers, Alternate

Also present:
Zoning Assistant Jordan Michael

Audience: See attached list

Vice Chair, George Tishma, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and asked everyone to stand to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chair, George Tishma, asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Rob Swauger asked for certain sections of the zoning resolution to be specified in the minutes. Rob Swauger made a motion to accept the minutes. Bob Moses seconded. The vote was as follows: Rob-yes, Bob-yes, Steve-yes, Theresa-abstained, and George-abstained. The motion was passed.

George Tishma asked the commission about the RV issue and why it wasn't agreed on at the last meeting. Rob explained that the issue started with someone receiving a complaint and being made to comply, who then complained about others in violation who were not made to comply. Audience members asked why some residents received violation letters and others didn't. Bob answered that the trustees made a motion to stop the issuing of violations. George asked the audience for intelligent suggestions that they can put in the book to be fair for all residents, not just some. He said he lives in the Meadows at Marsh Creek which allows them to park recreational vehicles beside the house. Theresa said that was suggested at last month's meeting. George clarified, the vehicle must not protrude past the front of the house.

Rob asked the audience if they were able to fit all of their vehicles in their driveway. All audience members said yes. George and Rob suggested allowing parking beside the house, and also changing the wording. Nic Hemrick asked if the complaint came from someone hoping to start a storage business. George said he doesn't think so. Steve said he lives in a development with the former zoning inspector and so they have been fully enforced in the 15 years since he moved there. The whole neighborhood has been following the zoning code.

Bob said they'll do what's best, what the people want, and then their decision goes

to the trustees. George said there would also be a public hearing with the Zoning Commission to present their changes. Bob suggested the rules be changed to allow recreational vehicles but not construction equipment. Rob said they could differentiate between recreational and commercial, but what if someone has a chartered boat that they use for a business? George said there's no reason to penalize the business if it is visually the same as a recreational use. He also said he would like to allow parking both beside and behind the house. Audience member Vera Hamrick asked to make sure no one will be prosecuted until changes are presented and agreed upon. The Zoning Commission said yes.

Rob suggested that the word "equipment" be removed from Section 310.F and instead be defined later on. He also suggested to remove the maximum length of 24 feet for a lot less than one acre. George suggested to remove the requirement of being adequately screened from view from adjacent property, because residents can only have an 8-foot fence anyway, and to permit parking in the side yard as well as the rear yard. Steve suggested to change the rule of no connection to electric, fuel, etc. to "no permanent connection". Bob suggested a 48-hour limit.

Steve said he would check bordering townships to see if they've made special cases for this issue. George said he would make a motion to have a work session with the trustees. Rob said it would have to be a public meeting in that case. Steve said Karen could set up a special meeting and give the public advance notice. George said he'd like to present the changes to the public by next month's meeting. He told Jordan to tell the trustees about the work session.

George called for a motion to hold a work session to review Section 310.F and discuss changes. Theresa made the motion and Bob seconded it. The motion was passed 5-0.

George promised to the audience that the Zoning Commission would have their changes written out by next month to be presented at the meeting. An audience member asked if they would vote on it at that time. George said that the Zoning Commission would change something, or at least he'd like to. The audience thanked the Zoning Commission.

George asked if there was any new business. No new business was discussed. George called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Steve made the motion to adjourn. Rob seconded and the motion was passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Vice Chair George Tishma
Rootstown Township Zoning Commission