



The Rootstown Township Zoning Commission met in regular session on Monday, November 19, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at Rootstown Town Hall.

Present:

George Tishma  
Steve Brown  
Ginny Hamilton  
Bob Moses

Absent:

Karen Henry

Also present:

Jim Mahood, Zoning Inspector  
Van Black, Asst. Zoning Inspector  
Brett Housley, Trustee  
Todd Peetz- Regional Planning

Audience

Kirsten Peetz  
Roger Carpenter  
Shawn Martz  
Cathy Moses

Chair, Karen Henry, called the meeting to order.

Everyone stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Todd Peetz returned to discuss Regional Planning's review of the Townships Zoning Resolution with the board. Mr. Peetz said that required time to review and make recommendations of any zoning codes is within the Townships budgeted hours. Mr. Peetz said the review and any recommendations should be done by May or June of next year. Mr. Peetz mentioned again to the Zoning Commission that if there was any hot topics they wanted to review to forward them to Mr. Mahood or contact his office. The Zoning Commission reiterated their concern

about exotic animals and the new law that was passed this year and any possible recommendations concerning P.E.V's ( plug- in, electric, vehicles). George Tishma stated that he feels that the Trustees want the Zoning Commission to come up with regulations concerning P.E.V.'s but personally feels that there is no need at this time for them.

Chair, Karen Henry, asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from last meeting, Ginny Hamilton made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected, the motion was seconded by Bob Moses, roll was taken and passed.

Brett Housley reminded the Commission that the public hearing for garage/yard sales will be held December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at the monthly Trustee meeting. Mr. Housley also mentioned that the Township is looking at quite zones for railroad crossings.

Mr. Mahood mentioned that George and himself attended the annual Ohio Planning Seminar and that some of the classes they attended were very informative and encouraged others to attend next year.

Mr. Tishma asked about the construction at N.E.O.M.E.D. and his concern with the dirt being drugged out on St. Rt. 44. Mr. Housley said that the road is maintained by the state.

Karen Henry started the discussion on exotic animals and developing a list of animals, George mentioned the list provided by the State of Ohio in the proposed Senate Bill 310. Discussion went back and forth concerning eliminating certain animals off the list and adding some to the list. Mr. Tishma asked that since the State has a existing law why does the Township need one in place? Mr. Mahood mentioned that the state allows licensed organizations and citizens to keep certain animals on their property, but the Township has the right to prohibit or regulate the keeping of dangerous animals. Bob Moses asked the board what do they do if someone in the Township already has one of the animals on the state provided list? Mr. Tishma feels that the State provided list is more than reasonable and the Zoning Commission should adopt it. Discussion took place to just list the entire Senate Bill into the zoning resolution, but it didn't seem to favorable by all. A debate took place regarding the current regulations and if it is sufficient enough and if the

Township should ban the keeping of any exotic animal within the Township all together, a few members feel that may be to harsh. Mr. Tishma requested that the Prosecutor look at the current regulations to see if it follows the new law in place. Mr. Tishma reiterated that he doesn't want the Township to be any stricter than the Ohio Revised Code allows. Mr. Mahood stated that if the Zoning Commission permits residents to keep such animals, that it should be conditionally permitted so neighbors and other residents can be informed of and any concerns be documented.

The Zoning Commission is looking at the possible following definition.  
**EXOTIC ANIMAL:** Shall mean wild animals/ reptiles not indigenous to Ohio, such as lions,tigers,elephants,alligators,crocodiles, or any animal listed in the Ohio Revised Code.

The Zoning Commission decided to continue working on this at the next scheduled meeting in December. Steve Brown made the motion to adjourn, it was seconded by George Tishma, roll was taken and passed 4-0.

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Karen Henry, Chair  
Rootstown Township Zoning Commission