



Rootstown Township Zoning Commission

The Rootstown Township Zoning Commission met in regular session on Monday, December 19, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at Rootstown Town Hall.

Present:

Steve Brown
Karen Henry
Robert Moses
AnneMarie Mullenix
George Tishma
Helen Vari

Absent:

Van-Note Black

Also present:

Jim Mahood, Zoning Inspector
Judy Adamson, secretary

Chair, AnneMarie Mullenix, called the meeting to order.

Everyone stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair, AnneMarie Mullenix, began the meeting by announcing her resignation from the zoning commission. She thanked the members for all their help and support during her four years of service to the township. She wishes to pursue career opportunities. She further recommended that Karen Henry be chosen by the trustees to act as chairperson for the upcoming year.

Trustee, Brett Housley, commented that Mrs. Mullenix will be greatly missed. He also praised the zoning commission members as they have been doing a good job in all aspects of zoning on the township level, and have been an active group participating at the county level as well.

Mr. Housley reported that things might be a bit different for next year. He has met with the school officials and also NEOMED personnel and invited them to attend the next joint meeting to explain what direction they are going in the future and how it pertains to the township. The

Northeast Ohio Medical University has already begun to expand and is offering a STEM+M Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) for 60 high school students from any school district in Portage County starting in the fall of 2012.

Mr. Housley also informed the group that the recently denied proposed amendment regarding regulations for garage/yard sales can be re-submitted by the zoning commission. The township residents that attended the trustees' public hearing were in opposition to yard/garage sales being regulated. A possibility of including an exception for home occupation regulations might be the way to go.

Mr. George Tishma said that he had taken an informal poll of random people and the general consensus was that garage sales are a part of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and regulations are not needed.

Summer and Roger Carpenter were present in the audience. Mrs. Carpenter stated that it's their right to have a sale when it's nice weather and they just want to get rid of some of their excess items. Why should someone be able to tell them "no"? The zoning commission members explained the reason the proposed regulations were considered. It was from neighbors' complaints of excessive traffic, parking on streets, blocking driveways, continual sales, and etc. As the zoning commission went through the process in their public meetings that were advertised in the newspaper and website, as well as posted on the township marquee sign, no township residents attended to offer input.

Mrs. Carpenter explained that their property has ample parking and turnaround areas and maybe it should be a "parking" issue instead of punishing them for having multiple yard sales. Mr. Carpenter feels that the havoc created by this issue was directed towards them. Mrs. Mullenix repeated the intent is not to stop yard sales in these hard economic times.

The process of revisiting the garage/yard sale regulations will not be finished in a quick timeline as much discussion and further tweaking needs to be done.

Zoning Inspector Report - Mr. Jim Mahood gave a brief report on the things happening in the township currently. There have been more commercial permits recently rather than residential or new home permits. A few new businesses are in the works including a bus museum and library on Karry Drive, Scott's Lawn Service will be locating on Tallmadge Road near the post office, a used car lot is coming to S.R. 44/Prospect Street between the flower shop and restaurant, and a baseball academy building will be built soon off S.R. 44/Prospect Street, too. Gas wells are being drilled in our area; however the township does not regulate them.

There is also a traffic study of S.R. 44/Prospect Street from Tallmadge Road to Ravenna city limits. This does not have a direct link to the Medical University, but the county and Ravenna City are seeking a grant to pay for sidewalks and then traffic lights will be needed with the expansion of the university.

Karen Henry made a motion to accept the November 21, 2011 zoning commission meeting minutes as presented. George Tishma seconded the motion and all ayes were heard.

Secretary, Judy Adamson, announced her retirement as December 2011 ends.

Assistant Zoning Inspector, Van-Note Black, is recuperating at home from surgery and will be off until early 2012.

George Tishma made a motion to adjourn. Karen Henry seconded the motion and all ayes were heard.

Chair
Rootstown Township Zoning Commission

Judy Adamson, secretary