Minutes: Russell Township Zoning Commission

Russell Fire-Rescue Station September 23, 2015

Present: Richard E. Snyder, Chairman

Bruce Murphy Ben Kotowski Donna Weiss Carson

Mr. Warren was absent with apologies.

Also in attendance: Diana Steffen, Zoning Inspector.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40p.m.

**MINUTES OF August 26, 2015** – *Mr. Kotowski made the motion to approve the minutes as amended, Ms. Weiss Carson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.* 

**LAND USE GUIDE PLAN UPDATE:** Ms. Weiss Carson said she made the corrections to her chapter of the land use guide plan on regional relations. She has not received an updated map from NOACA showing the regional freeway corridors, she received spreadsheets that had no assessment on them. She has asked NOACA for an updated map or an assessment of the spreadsheets with the updated information. The board decided that if they can't receive a current assessment of the regional freeway corridor map or a new map then they will remove it from the updated land use guide plan. Ms. Weiss Carson has received a map from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. This map of Russell Township shows all of the parcels outlines, but doesn't show parcel numbers or the owner's names. This map shows all of the lands with conservation easements, and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy is comfortable with using this map in a public document. Besides the map Ms. Weiss Carson will just have to do a final proof reading, and her chapter will be ready.

Mr. Snyder asked Ms. Weiss Carson if NOACA has plans to increase the number of lanes on 322, and 306. Ms. Weiss Carson said the only plans they have are Auburn road by expanding lanes, and they have already added turning lanes.

Mr. Kotowski went over the changes he made to the demographics chapter of the land use guide plan. Mr. Kotowski rewrote the first two paragraphs with current information. He changed the section about trends and projections, and added the bullet points of issues for the population. He updated Russell's growth up until the year 2000, and asked the board if they wanted all the old numbers left in for the history of growth in Russell.

Mr. Kotowski asked about the content that he updated, and said he has the graphs but has not put them in the document yet. Mr. Murphy suggested that the population projection be reworded to say "2015 projected as of old guide plan" and just some final editing of the chapter. Mr. Kotowski said he would go over all the numbers and graphs to make sure all the numbers are correct. He asked the board for any suggestions, and wants to make sure all of the changes make sense. He is still working on the paragraph on population characteristics. Ms. Weiss Carson asked Mr. Kotowski to include all the graphs in the document so the board could see everything put together, and then the board can make suggestions once they know what he has. Mr. Murphy made the suggestion to include the old historic projections along with the new 2015 projections. Mr. Kotowski will make changes and add graphs for the next meeting.

Mr. Murphy discussed the map he received showing lot classifications in Russell Township. The map needs a few changes but he has a draft, and the map show all of the parcels in Russell and the land use category of each parcel in the township. This map doesn't show the owner names or parcel numbers. The board discussed the possibility of combining some of the categories to make the map more legible and easier for people to understand. The current draft has 30 lot classifications; a lot of the categories are so similar that it would make the map easier to read if they were turned into one more general category. Mr. Murphy suggested adding a ZC 09-23-15

category for township owned property, but the board needs to figure out what categories they want to define and which ones can be combined together. Once the board has the categories they want to be defined the map can be made to resemble the categories.

Mr. Snyder asked if each township has the same codes of classification. Mr. Murphy said that each county has their own set of codes and classifications. Mr. Snyder would like Mrs. Steffen to make a list of classification codes and there definition and the list to be on dropbox for the next meeting so the board can discuss the codes and decide which ones to use on the land use map.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Mrs. Steffen asked the members of the board if they received her email about a zoning conference in November. She said it cost \$120.00 a person, and asked if anyone was interested in attending. Two of the members expressed their interest in going, there is a seminar on land use guide plans, and the conference could be very helpful on the rewriting of our land use guide plan. The board asked if there was enough money in the fund to send two people to the conference. Mrs. Steffen said there was, and she just needed to know who would be interested in going. The members of the board will let her know before the registration deadline.

<u>Action Item</u>: Mrs. Steffen will work on getting a final draft of the Land Use Map of Russell Township. Mr. Kotowski will have updated text on his chapter, and the graphs added to the text for the next meeting. Mrs. Steffen is to make a list of all the classification codes in Geauga County, and their definitions. The list should be posted on dropbox for the next meeting.

There being no other business, Mr. Snyder made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Murphy seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,			
Jennifer Dorka	 Date	Bruce Murphy	Date
ZC minutes 09-23-15		Vice Chairman	

ZC 09-23-15 Page **2** of **2**