

Russell Township Board of Appeals Meeting Minutes
Russell Township Community Room
Date: May 11, 2026

Present: Mr. Steve Gokorsch, Chairman
Ms. Adrienne Knauer
Ms. Nicole Mulloy
Ms. Kate Walsh

Regrets: Mr. Mark McGrievy

Bonnie Guyer, Zoning Secretary in attendance

Also In Attendance:

Kathy Jankowski, Knight & Stolar, 3029 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115
Brian Rafferty, Butler Campus Manager, 7420 Fairmount Rd., Novelty, OH 44072
Ethan Schwartz, Director of Facilities, 7420 Fairmount Rd., Novelty, OH 44072
Mike Walsh, 15349 Dale Road

I. Call to Order at 7:00pm

Announcements:

Notice of Public Hearing published in the Chagrin Valley Times and Mapleleaf on 4/30/2026

II. Review Laurel School Butler Campus 2025 Environmental Plan

Ms. Mulloy moved to open the public hearing for the Laurel School Butler campus Environmental Management Plan. Ms. Knauer moved to second and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Jankowski presented the 2025 Environmental Management Plan, noting:

- The Ruhlan Family Center has opened since the previous review.
- Artificial turf is used in one area; the turf does **not** contain microplastics.
- Grant funding supports a four-year program to control invasive species, including buckthorn and phragmites.
- Per the Chagrin River Watershed Review, pond levels are low and algae is not present.
- Herbicide application procedures include restricting children from treated areas for 48 hours and monitoring weather conditions.
- Pesticides are stored in a locked, staff-only area.
- Pond testing shows no indication of herbicide runoff.

- Landscape buffering is in place, and the school continues to explore ways to reduce impacts on surrounding properties.

Ms. Walsh inquired about the possibility of existing baseline studies studying native species survival and invasive species reductions. As Ms. Jankowski noted, the management plan addresses how the campus is currently managing the environment. Further, Ms. Jankowski will encourage the campus to look for potential grant opportunities for such studies.

BZA members were encouraged to visit the campus.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. April 13, 2026, Minutes & Findings of Fact

Ms. Mulloy moved to accept, minutes & Findings of Fact. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion, and upon roll call the vote was Ms. Knauer-abstain; Ms. Mulloy-yes; Ms. Walsh-yes; Mr. Gokorsch-yes. The motion was approved.

IV. Additional Discussion

Draft copies of Area and Use Variance applications were distributed. Comments, revisions, etc. requested by May 21st Trustees meetings.

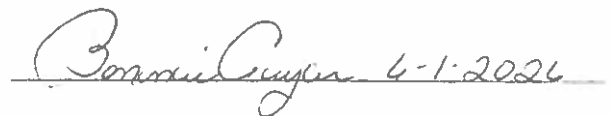
IV. Adjourn

Ms. Knauer moved to close the meeting at 8:00pm. Ms. Mulloy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

 6/1/26

Steve Gokorsch
Chairman

Date

 4-1-2026

Bonnie Guyer
Zoning Secretary

Date