

Minutes: Russell Township Board of Zoning Appeals
Russell Township Hall
May 10, 2021

Present: Mr. Steve Gokorsch, Chairman
Mr. Dushan Boucek, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Bill Downing
Mr. Mark McGrievy
Mr. Matt Rambo

Also in attendance: Mrs. Cathleen Birli, Zoning Secretary

Mr. Shane Wrench, Zoning Inspector, was absent with apologies.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The legal notice was published in the Chagrin Valley Times and Geauga Maple Leaf on April 27, 2021.

The certified letters announcing the meeting were mailed on, April 27, 2021.

**LAUREL SCHOOL CONDITIONAL USE #380
2021 - Annual Review of Environmental Management Plan**

Mr. Downing made a motion to open the public hearing, Mr. McGrievy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Gokorsch stated he would like a table of contents and an executive summary for future reviews.

Ms. Jankowski, Mr. Rafferty and Ms. Pellerano were present to answer any questions that the Board of Zoning Appeals had about the Environmental Management Plan for Laurel School.

They stated all three ponds are maintained with no chemicals and no leaf dumping, a measure they will continually maintain. They added fish to contain the algae and insects.

Pond #2 was slightly elevated and after a repeat test, the level was normal. Pond #1 and Pond #2 are in compliance. Chagrin River Watershed Partners stated this was due to heavy rains and the construction of 4 new Yurts.

Mr. Gokorsch asked if there was a silt fencing around the ponds? **Ms. Jankowski stated Yes.**

Mr. Gokorsch referenced Exhibit A (pond site plan) showing a green film on the pond. **Mr. Rafferty stated that was algae. Ms. Jankowski also stated the algae will be located only in the shallowest part of the ponds and dissolves when it gets deeper.**

Mr. Boucek asked what types of native fish were added to the ponds. **Mr. Rafferty said they added U.S. Agriculture and Wildlife recommendations of sterile bass and blue gill, which help fight algae and insects.**

Mr. Gokorsch asked how large the ponds were? **Ms. Jankowski said each pond is ½ acre. The ponds also have barriers to avoid fish runoff during heavy rains.**

Mr. McGrievy asked if the ponds are tied together? **Ms. Jankowski stated they are all separate with natural runoff. She referenced Exhibit A (pond site plan) showing the water runoff.**

Pond #1 water runoff from the track and soccer fields
Pond #2 water runoff from the lacrosse and soccer fields
Pond #3 water runoff from the softball field

Mr. Gokorsch asked which pond has the algae? **Mr. Rafferty stated Pond #2.**

Mr. Downing questioned the temperature of the ponds? **Ms. Jankowski stated that was a mistake on the summary report and has been corrected. Chagrin River Watershed Partners stated the temperature for the pond water should be 60 to 85 degrees and the soil temperature, other than air, should be 50 to 60 degrees, which is good for plant roots to remain active.**

Mr. Downing asked if there will be any new construction in the future? **Ms. Pellerano stated No.**

Mr. Gokorsch asked Ms. Jankowski to sign and date the pond site plan.

Exhibit A (pond site plan)

Mr. Downing made the motion to approve Laurel School's annual review of their Environmental Management Plan, Mr. Boucek seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Minutes:

Mr. Boucek made the motion to accept the Minutes from the April 5, 2021 meeting. Mr. Downing seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Findings of Facts:

Mr. Boucek made the motion to accept the Findings of Fact for Variance #535 from the April 5, 2021 meeting. Mr. McGrievy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Boucek made the motion to accept the Findings of Fact for Variance #536 from the April 5, 2021 meeting. Mr. Rambo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Boucek made the motion to accept the Findings of Fact for Variance #537 from the April 5, 2021 meeting. Mr. Rambo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no other business, Mr. Boucek made a motion to adjourn. Mr. McGrievy seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

