

Minutes: Russell Township Zoning Commission
Russell Fire-Rescue Station
August 28, 2019

Present: Jim Dickinson
Mark McGrievy - Vice Chairman
Mary Lentz
Ben Kotowski - Chairman

Mrs. Walder, Zoning Secretary, was absent with apologies.

Also in attendance: Shane Wrench, Zoning Inspector

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Dickinson made the motion to accept the meeting agenda as presented. Ms. Lentz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The commission reviewed the minutes from the July 24, 2019 meeting. They discussed reformatting the why the minutes are recorded so that any discussion resulting from comments from the public are listed with the comments section. The commission would also like a separate section for "discussion" which would be separate from "comments from the public". The commission discussed that in the minutes they want to be referred to a "commission" and not "board" going forward. The commission would like the July minutes redone to follow this new format.

Mr. Dickinson made the motion to accept the July 24, 2019 minutes as amended. Mr. McGrievy seconded the motion. Roll call vote as followed: Mr. Dickinson - yes, Mr. Kotowski - abstain, Ms. Lentz - yes, Mr. McGrievy - yes.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION: The commission discussed additional side structures on a property. The Zoning Inspector advised the commission that additional structures haven't been an issue until one was built and didn't match the materials of the home. He advised that the township can't control what materials are used when building a structure. Mr. Kotowski asked if the commission could restrict coverage in the front yard of a residence. Mr. Wrench said as long as it's not over 10% of the lot there are no other restrictions. Ms. Lentz suggested looking over the definitions. The commission questioned if they could legally "tighten" up the zoning resolution, Mr. McGrievy advised he doesn't want to put the Zoning Inspector in the position to have to say "I interpret the Zoning Resolution as".

Mr. Kotowski asked if there was a distance that an ancillary building had to be from the home? Mr. Wrench said there is not. Mr. Kotowski asked if that was a fire issue. Mr. Wrench advised that is why there is a side yard setback, it saves the neighbors buildings not your own. The commission will look into if they are permitted to put a setback beyond the principal building for any ancillary buildings, and how to determine the number of feet if permitted.

The commission discussed the 2019 goals. Mr. Kotowski said to look into goal number one. Mr. Kotowski asked if soil & water had any planned events or packets that the commission could get to residents to help educate the community, he asked to have a representative from Soil & Water attend a Zoning Commission meeting to tell the commission what they can do to educate the residents. For the next meeting the commission will have looked into and have worked on goals one, two, and seven. Ms. Lentz encouraged the other members that they will be able to get all the goals for the year done if they start working on them.

The Zoning Inspector will look into getting the commission members on the OTA mailing list so they can stay informed with any changes, or training for the area.

Ms. Lentz made a motion to adjourn. Mr. McGrievy seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

karen Walder, appointed to serve
as Secretary of the Zoning Commission

Date

Mark McGrievy
Vice-Chairman

Date

Recorded by: J. Dorka