

Minutes: Russell Township Zoning Commission
Russell Fire-Rescue Station
March 27, 2019

Present: Tom Warren, Chairman
Ben Kotowski
Mary Lentz
Mark McGrievy

Mr. Dickinson was absent with apologies.

Also in attendance: Shane Wrench, Zoning Inspector

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Mr. Warren welcomed the two new members of the Zoning Commission, Mary Lentz and Mark McGrievy. Mr. Warren asked the new member to introduce themselves, and why they wanted to be on the Zoning Commission. Mary introduced herself, she has lived in Russell for 31 years, she enjoys the community, and she wanted to be active in the community now that she has more free time. Mark introduced himself, he has lived in Russell for 16 years, he really enjoys the community and wanted the opportunity to contribute to it.

Mr. Warren asked the board to hold off on voting for chairman and vice chairman until a meeting when Mr. Dickinson will be in attendance.

Mrs. Lentz made the motion to postpone voting on chairman and vice chairman until there is a full board. Mr. McGrievy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The board discussed the meeting schedule for the rest of the year.

Mr. Kotowski made the motion to accept the 2019 meeting schedule as modified. Mrs. Lentz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jill James, a Russell resident for 15 years, advised the board that she lives on Stillwater Dr. Her neighbor built a pole barn next to his house, and in line with his house instead of behind it. The barn is also two feet too close to her property line on the side yard. The residents on the street are signing a petition to get the barn taken down, because it is ugly and they don't like that it is in line with the house. Mr. Wrench advised the board that he is working with the resident about moving the barn two feet closer to the house due to the violation of the side yard setback. Mr. Wrench also advised the board that the zoning stated that an accessory building can't be in front of the residence. The barn being in line with the home is following the Zoning Resolution, and there is no violation for that. Mr. Wrench also stated that since Russell doesn't have an architect review board there is nothing he can do about the "look" of the barn. Mr. Warren agreed with the Zoning Inspector and there is nothing the board can do about lack of visual appeal as long as the structure abides by the zoning. Mr. Warren suggested that the board look into possibly updating the Zoning Resolution accessory building setbacks.

Mr. Wrench advised the commission that the Board of Zoning Appeals sent them a letter about changing the driveway section of the Zoning Resolution. The board agreed it might need updated to meet the requirements of the "new times". Mr. Warren advised that all driveways need to be approved by ODOT, and the Resolution should go by ODOT standards. The board agreed that if ODOT sets the driveway standards than Russell should follow them, and the Zoning Commission can't do anything to change what ODOT allows.

Mr. Warren asked the Zoning Secretary to look and see if all the 2018 issues were resolved, and if the definitions were finalized. Mr. Warren asked if the new board members could receive a copy of the Zoning Resolution and the Land Use Guide Plan.

Mr. Kotowski made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Lentz seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Walder, appointed to serve **Date**
as Secretary of the Zoning Commission

Tom Warren **Date**
Chairman

Recorded by: J. Dorka