

Princeton Township
Mille Lacs County, Minnesota
Planning Commission Meeting **Monday August 2, 2021**
Minutes

Regular Meeting

At 6:30 p.m., Chair David Persing called the regular monthly meeting to order.

Commission members present: Cyndi Macdonald, Cheryl Schimming, Steve Pfliegaar, David Persing, Carol Whitcomb, Township Supervisor Dan Hiller

Commission member absent: Kathy Stoeckel

Staff present: Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Andrea Gerrard, Zoning Administrator Scott Richards

Public in-person attendees: Nancy Moan, Joel Minks

Online attendees: None

All Participants recited the pledge of Allegiance

Approve Agenda

Cyndi MacDonald moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Steve Pfliegaar.
Motion Carried

Open Forum

Dan Hiller expressed concern about the amount of money that is being spent on the zoning and planning for the township. He suggested that turning zoning over to the County would save the Township a lot of money, and could provide better service to Township residents. He noted that he has no problem with members of the planning commission, and thanked them for their service.

Approve Minutes of Meeting – July 12, 2021

Ms. Schimming raised a question about the wording in the third paragraph under Section 27 & 34 Land Use and Zoning Study. The statement reads, “He (Mr. Moller) confirmed that each site on his plan has been tested for two septic locations.” She maintained that Mr. Moller had confirmed that borings had been taken, but at random locations, and not on every site. Members, along with Mr. Richards, agreed with her contention.

Ms. Schimming moved to replace the sentence with “He confirmed that borings had been taken at random locations on the plan site.” Ms. Whitcomb seconded. Motion carried.

Section 27 and 34 – Land Use and Zoning Study/Sketch Plan

Scott Richard gave updated: Scott Moller is directed to put in an application for the comprehensive plan and the rezoning of the property. They are currently working on a preliminary plat. We will be doing a larger area of mailing for this project. This will allow more residents to know what is coming into their area.

Zoning District Setback Standards and Accessory Building Size

Mr. Richards noted that the Township does not now have accessory-building regulations. He presented a list of ordinance additions that would define accessory buildings, establish setback, sidewall height, and overall height regulations by district, and establish usage and occupancy regulations.

Ms. MacDonald suggested that the ordinance is being a bit fussy with the requirement that accessory buildings be architecturally similar to the main house. Members were generally concerned with the vagueness of “similar to.”

Commissioners discussed how to change it and clarify the wording; Scott said he will look into it and bring it back.

Ms. Schimming moved to direct Mr. Richards to revise the proposed ordinance in accordance with the Commission’s discussion, and hold a public hearing at the Commission’s September meeting. Seconded by Ms. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Electronic Signs / Billboards

Commission members have been conducting an extensive and detailed discussion of electronic sign and billboard regulations for several meetings. Mr. Richards reviewed revisions he is proposing for the ordinance based on previous discussions. Members proposed additional revisions. Mr. Richards will incorporate those into another draft to be considered at the September meeting. Mr. Richards will not call for a public hearing at this time.

Adjourn

Mr. Pflieger moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Whitcomb. Motion carried.

Time: 7:33pm