

SHERMAN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2023

1. Meeting called to order 7:00pm pledge.
2. Roll call:
 - Present: Al Smalligan, Doug Berens, Wayne Berens, Jim VanBoven, Don Clark, Mark Kukal.
 - Absent: Butch Deur
3. Approval of agenda: 1st Al Smalligan and 2nd Doug Berens.
4. Approval of meeting minutes: 1st Doug Berens and 2nd Mark Kukal.
5. Approval of public hearing minutes: 1st Al Smalligan and 2nd Mark Kukal.
6. Public comments (2 minutes): None.
6. Communications:
 - Chairman's Comments: Note from chairmen Butch Deur (copy will be attached).
 - Insight on the renewable energy bills.
 - Ryan Coffey's Comments about solar in the township: bills are out, and some lobbyists are against and they may not pass.
 - Reevaluating the ordinance from the board.
 - The overall popular vote from the public was no and the board was just about split evenly; carried by one vote for "yes".
 - Ryan Coffey: board needs to address the outdoor storage, new proposal metal work and sawmills as industrial, 2400 square foot business on a small lot and there is a concern about loopholes for conflict- some of the board wants to close that loophole with more restrictions- need to address separate from the agricultural distract, outside individuals being two rather than one.
 - Mark Kukal makes a motion for these ordinances to be taken back to the subcommittee for discussion with the new information presented tonight and address to the board at a later time.
 - Wayne Berens supports this motion.
 - Al Smalligan thinks it is a good idea, thinks we strongly heard from the public between the meetings regarding these issues, home business occupations regarding the 2400 square feet.
 - Ryan Coffey: says home business and cottage-based industry got "smushed" together; cottage-based industry happens outside the home, but these two started getting mixed rather than a home business having a small sign and cars in the driveway. Recommends referring to attorney for policies and procedures but says that the township is legally sound and protected by the process they followed. Due diligence has been done legally but can run it by Cliff if they want to.
 - Don Clark asked Jay Diehl to present what he had been told by an attorney he hired personally; he says the board did not follow procedure.
 - Motion to send this back to the subcommittee with the information that they have now and public comment and then bring it back to the board 1st Mark Kukal and 2nd Wayne Berens. All board in favor.
7. Existing business:
 - Covered in Communications.

8. New business: None

9. Review:

- Subcommittee to meet regarding the items listed in communications on Monday October 23rd, 2023, at 6:30pm.

11. Public comment (2 minutes):

- Ken Smalligan: would like to see the 2400 square foot “loophole” strengthened on where, how, and what can be done on those square feet. If the storage issue is passed about the square feet and acre lot. Wants committee to look at what size building will be allowed on the 2400 square feet.
- Jay Diehl: question on what the subcommittee does once they bring it back to the full body for discussion (question answered by Ryan Coffey). Members of the subcommittee include Doug, Mark, Jim, and Chad, Ryan comes as well.
- Warren Stroven: wants this brought back to the public for a vote because of the big impact on the community.

12. Adjournment:

Time: 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Chris Berens

Present in the Crowd:

- Karen Berens.
- Jay Diehl.
- Ken Smalligan.
- Warren Stroven.

Fellow members of The planning board

I would like to express my upmost thanks
support to the sub-committee for their
gent work on this ordinance.

Procedure was followed, votes were cast
appears that democracy has broken down.

For one, would be in favor of tableing this
till trust can be re-established between
planning board and the Township board.

Enough said!

Respectfully

Butch Deur
Chairman

