

ELLSWORTH TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Regular Meeting – May 9, 2023

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those serving and those who have served.

Roll call was taken to establish a quorum. Members present: Sean Giblin, Chair; Jim Mayberry, Vice Chair; Dan Stout, Member; Jim Gilmartin, Member; and Dee Tripp, Alternate/Acting Secretary. Roni Massullo, excused absence.

Jim Mayberry moved to accept the minutes from the 4/11/2023 meeting as submitted. Dan Stout seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous to accept the minutes as submitted.

Zoning Inspector’s Report – Attorney Wayne Sarna

Three permits were issued for: a commercial sign for “Stay at Home Storage”; a fence and patio; and a new address at 11485 Leffingwell Road.

Letter was sent to 11698 Ellsworth Road explaining to the property owner that their neighbor at 11632 Ellsworth Road is not the person who filed the complaint about debris in their yard.

Received two calls from the Sheriff’s office regarding goats on a property on Route 224 – some are getting out and running onto the highway and some have gotten stuck in the electrical fence. A letter was sent advising the property owner that even though the property is zoned Ag, the fenced animals must be on the side or in the rear yards.

Old Business

Dee Tripp reported, according to the motion made in April, she sent an email on 4/13/23 to the Trustees recommending that solar farms used for commercial purposes be rezoned to Business. She also phoned the Zoning Inspector in Columbiana to see how they were handling the solar issue. Their Inspector explained that Columbiana allows solar arrays on roof tops but not ground mounted systems. Regarding the medium sized solar farms, the Columbiana Resolution – as well as Ellsworth’s Resolution – states that if a use is not listed as “permitted”, then it is “not permitted”. The Columbiana Commissioners are working with their attorney regarding the larger solar farms.

Dan Stout made a motion that the Trustees be notified that the Zoning Commission recommends that solar arrays not be permitted in Ellsworth except on roofs of permanent structures. Jim Gilmartin seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous to accept the motion. Dee will send an email.

Dan Stout made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Jim Gilmartin. Roll call vote was unanimous to adjourn at 6:40 pm.

Dolores Tripp, Acting Secretary