Onekama Township Planning Commission

Monthly Meeting minutes

August 17, 2023 7:00p

Members present: Commissioner Al Taylor, Commissioner Beata Hunt, Chair Jim Trout, Vice Chair Dave Wallace, Secretary Jean Capper. Absent: Commissioner Rob Johnson. Also in attendance: Jodie Lynch—Zoning Administrator, Robert & Lori Brown.

Meeting was called to order at 7:02p.

Chair Trout asked why the meeting was not being televised as planned. Commissioner Taylor didn't know for sure.

Additions to the agenda: ZA Lynch requested to add Brown minor amendment to existing SUP under old business.

Chair Trout asked for a change in wording to the July 20th meeting minutes. Vice Chair Wallace asked to have a misleading comment attributed to him deleted from the draft minutes.

Motion to accept the July 20th meeting minutes as amended by Vice Chair Wallace, seconded by Chair Trout. AIF, motion carried.

Public comment: Resident Judy Spohn asked when minor adjustments to the PPI permit will be announced. Chair Trout stated the Planning Commission hadn't yet received a formal application from owner Gezon asking for the adjustments.

Old Business:

Brown amendment—Robert & Lori Brown asked for a minor amendment to the existing SUP to include building a new barn to process dairy products that are already sold at their farmer's market. Chair Trout stated this was 1) an allowed use in the district, and 2) it is an allowed use under the existing SUP. Lynch confirms the Planning Department classifies this as a minor amendment (not requiring a public hearing).

Motion to accept the minor amendment by Capper, seconded by Hunt. AIF, motion carried.

Further discussion on amending the ordinance regarding communication towers—Chair Trout suggested the applicant asking for a change allowing an open lattice tower needs to apply for a text change in the ordinance. The Commission will wait for a formal request before pursuing any ordinance change.

Portage Point Inn SUP amendments—A public hearing to discuss minor amendments to the PPI SUP has been scheduled for 6:30p prior to the monthly Planning Commission meeting on September 21st.

Construction in violation of ordinance—ZA Lynch updated the Commission on an instance of non-authorized construction in the township built over the owner's property line.

Filling the vacancy on the Planning Commission—Vice Chair Wallace reports that one person has expressed interest in filling Commissioner Volkema's vacant seat and is going to fill out the required application.

New Business:

Sidewalk project—the Township Board wants the Planning Commission to look at the existing sidewalk along Portage Point Drive to determine whether it can be rehabilitated, and whose responsibility it would be to do so and to maintain it. Vice Chair Wallace agreed to contact Kurt Schindler, past Chair of the Planning Commisssion, to see if there's an existing map that shows the location of the existing sidewalk. Chair Trout stated that property owners along that area should be notified that there is a sidewalk there between their houses and the road and it is the intent of the township to clear debris to make the sidewalk usable again.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28p.

_____Chair

_____Recording Secretary

Submitted by Michelle Swanson, Recording Secretary