

Minutes: Russell Township Zoning Commission
Russell Town Hall
January 26, 2022

Present: Mr. Jim Dickinson, Vice Chairman
Mr. Barry Rogers
Mr. Nathan Wynveen

Mr. Ben Kotowski was absent with apologies
Dr. Chris Stormann was absent with apologies.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Also in attendance: Mr. Shane Wrench, Zoning Inspector; Mrs. Cathleen Birli, Zoning Secretary

The 2022 Schedule, Sunshine Notice, was announced in the Chagrin Valley Times and the Geauga Maple Leaf, Thursday, December 23, 2021.

Mr. Dickinson made the motion to accept the meeting agenda, Mr. Rogers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Appointments for 2022

Mr. Dickinson made the motion to nominate Mr. Ben Kotowski as the Chairman and Mr. Barry Rogers as the Vice- Chairman, Mr. Rogers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Goals/Objectives for 2022

Resolution Book: General review of definitions, specifically; Air BNB, Bed and Breakfasts, Mother-in-Law Suites and Agricultural Exemptions. Review lighting language, regulate and enforce.

Having joint meetings with Board of Zoning Appeals and Trustees throughout the year.

Musics Street and Chillicothe Road Improvements.

Other Business

Mr. Dave Dietrich: Mr. Rogers asked when Mr. Dietrich will be attending the meetings to update the Resolution Book? The Zoning Inspector stated he is waiting for the Trustees to finalize the budget. Looking at a March start date.

Air BNB Legal Action Update: Mr. Dickinson asked the Zoning Inspector if there was any update on the Air BNB on Fairmount Road. The Zoning Inspector said it is with the prosecutor's office and legal action will be underway.

Music Street/Chillicothe Road: Mr. Wynveen would like to draw up a letter for the Trustees regarding the Music Street and Chillicothe Road intersection. This would include suggestions on how to vitalize the area.

Zoning Workshop: The Zoning Inspector said there is a possible Zoning Workshop being planned. The Zoning Secretary will email the board when more information becomes available.

Agricultural Exemption: Mr. Rogers asked the Zoning Inspector if an accessory building is considered grandfathered in when the property is sold, and will the new owners be able to move into the structure as a home, or would the accessory building be considered a non-conforming structure? The Zoning Inspector said they would need a variance to use the structure as their home.

Mr. Dickinson asked if they would need an area variance or a non-conforming variance? The Zoning Inspector said possibly both would be needed.

The board agreed this will need to be addressed with Mr. Dietrich.

Public Comments were Received

Lighting:

Mr. Butters, River Glen, is still concerned about the lighting pollution in his neighborhood. He stated outdoor lighting is unenforced and unenforceable.

The Zoning Inspector stated he is dealing with lighting issues and admits it is hard to enforce.

Mr. Dickinson suggested enforcing. A light pollution discussion for Russell Township is important to ensue.

Mr. Rogers suggested sending out a special Russell Township newsletter explaining lighting regulations.

Music Street/Chillicothe Road Corner:

Mr. Butters, River Glen, suggested using part of the Music Street and Chillicothe Road corner as a possible storage facility.

The Mr. Dickinson and the board thought this is worth investigating.


The Zoning Inspector stated there three out of four corners are vacant. One of the corners is operated by the Pattie Group.

The Zoning Secretary will make a note of these concerns/questions for Mr. Dietrich.

Mr. Dickinson made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Wynveen seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Cathleen Birli 3-24-22
Mrs. Cathleen Birli Date
Zoning Commission Secretary

 3-24-22
Mr. Barry Rogers Date
Vice Chairman