Minutes:	Russell Township Zoning Commission Russell Fire-Rescue Station January 18, 2017
Present:	Tom Warren, Chairman Ben Kotowski, Vice Chairman Jim Dickinson

Also in attendance: Jennell Dahlhausen, Zoning Secretary; Lee Miller; John & Pat Leech.

Mr. Warren called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Dickinson moved to open the Public Hearing on Amendment 2016-8 to the Zoning Resolution, seconded by Mr. Kotowski. Motion passed unanimously.

PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT 2016-8 – AMENDING THE RUSSELL TOWNSHIP ZONING RESOLUTION, SECTION 2 DEFINITIONS AND SECTION 4.7.X AS FOLLOWS: adding the term medical marijuana and adding cultivation, processing, or retail dispensing of Medical Marijuana to prohibited uses.

Mr. Warren stated that the Geauga County Planning Commission reviewed the amendment and recommended its approval.

The Secretary stated the Public Hearing was properly advertised in the Chagrin Valley Times.

Mr. Leech commented that although he lives in Chesterland, he agrees with the proposed amendment 2016-8.

There was no additional public comment concerning the amendment.

Mr. Dickinson moved to close the public hearing for amendment 2016-8, seconded by Mr. Kotowski. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kotowski moved to recommend the approval of amendment 2016-8 to the Russell Township Zoning Resolution, consisting of 3 pages marked as Exhibit A, adding the term Medical Marijuana to the Zoning Resolution and adding a section under prohibited uses for the cultivating, processing, or retail dispensing of medical marijuana, seconded by Mr. Dickinson. Roll call: Mr. Warren – yes, Mr. Kotowski – yes, Mr. Dickinson – yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Warren said the next process for the amendment is its final approval from the Trustees.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2016: Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Kotowski didn't receive the minutes by email. Mr. Warren checked his email account and stated they were sent earlier

in the month. The Secretary said there have been email issues and will send them again for approval at the February 22, 2017 meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Commission discussed the nomination of a Chairman and Vice Chairman. *Mr. Dickinson moved to nominate Mr. Warren as Chairman, seconded by Mr. Kotowski. Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Dickinson moved to nominate Mr. Kotowski as Vice Chairman, seconded by Mr. Warren. Motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed the progress of the Land Use Guide Plan. Mr. Warren asked everyone to review the twelve-point plan section that was added and asked that all modifications to the plan are completed by the February meeting.

The Commission discussed goals for 2017 to incorporate in the 2016 Annual Report. They plan to work at the unaccomplished 2016 goals and added holding a workshop meeting between Trustees and the Zoning Boards in 2017, generator placement requirements, and adding a driveway placement section to the residential setbacks to coincide with the commercial setback section.

Mr. Dickinson contacted Mr. Leary concerning his letter questioning the new maximum lot requirements that were recently adopted through amendment 2016-7. Mr. Leary clarified that he isn't concerned about the impervious surface section like Mr. Snyder had contacted the Commission about, but was concerned with the new 35% lot coverage section. This was the recommendation of the Prosecutors Office and the Secretary stated she thinks South Russell has the same requirement in place for the Chagrin Heights Subdivision. Mr. Dickinson offered to contact the Prosecutors Office to verify why 35% lot coverage was suggested.

Mr. Warren brought attention to a request from the Board of Zoning Appeals to allow for alternates on their Board. The BZA feels the residents deserve to have a full Board available for variance requests in the event that another Board member isn't able to attend a meeting. The Zoning Commission stated they will take the request under consideration and will consult with the Trustees on the topic. Mr. Warren stated the BZA is welcome to come to the Zoning Commission to discuss the topic.

Being that there was no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Dickinson moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kotowski. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Jennell Dahlhausen Zoning Secretary Date

Tom Warren Chairman Date