

**Minutes: Russell Township Zoning Commission
Russell Fire-Rescue Station
December 14, 2016**

Present: Tom Warren, Chairman
Donna Weiss Carson, Vice Chairman
Ben Kotowski
Jim Dickinson

Also in attendance: Jennell Dahlhausen, Zoning Secretary; Shane Wrench, Zoning Inspector; Lee & Linda Miller; John & Pat Leech; C.J. Natale; Matthew Mieset; Anasja Troutman.

Mr. Warren called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2016: *Ms. Weiss Carson moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2016 meeting, seconded by Mr. Dickinson. In favor; Mr. Warren – yes, Ms. Weiss Carson – yes, Mr. Kotowski – abstain, Mr. Dickinson – yes. Motion passed.*

OTHER BUSINESS: The Commission discussed the progress of the Land Use Guide Plan and Mr. Dickinson reviewed a list of comments he put together after reading through the most recent draft. The Commission plans to have an edited draft for the Trustees soon.

An amendment to address the new House Bill 523 was discussed. The amendment would add the term Medical Marijuana to the Zoning Resolution and add a section under prohibited uses for the cultivating, processing, or retail dispensing of medical marijuana. This was the recommendation of the Geauga County Planning Commission and was reviewed by the Geauga County Prosecutors Office.

Mr. Kotowski moved to initiate an amendment 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, Ms. Weiss Carson – yes, Mr. Kotowski – yes, Mr. Dickinson – yes. Motion passed.

Ms. Weiss Carson moved to conduct a Public Hearing on proposed amendment 2016-8 to the Russell Township Zoning Resolution, on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Russell Fire-Rescue Station seconded by Mr. Dickinson. Roll Call; Mr. Warren – yes, Ms. Weiss Carson – yes, Mr. Kotowski – yes, Mr. Dickinson – yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Leech stated that he agrees with the proposed amendment 2016-8 and commended the commission for being proactive with this topic.

Mr. Warren stated resident, Rick Snyder, contacted him with concern that there may be a conflict with amendment 2016-7 to the Zoning Resolution Section 4.6 Permitted Modifications and Exceptions, Section 5.2 Residential Zones and Section 7.5

Nonconforming Lots of Record, and the impervious surface section of the Zoning Resolution. The Geauga County Prosecutors Office reviewed this matter and stated they don't see a conflict.

The Commission discussed the concerns and a letter from Mr. Leary questioning the new maximum lot requirements that were just adopted. Mr. Kotowski is going to contact the Prosecutors Office to ask why they suggested the maximum lot coverages that were included in amendment 2016-7, and Mr. Dickinson said he would reach out to Mr. Leary to discuss as well.

The 2017 meeting schedule was discussed. *Mr. Kotowski moved to approve the 2017 meeting schedule as presented, seconded by Mr. Dickinson. In favor; Mr. Warren – yes, Ms. Weiss Carson – yes, Mr. Kotowski – yes, Mr. Dickinson – yes. Motion passed.*

Ms. Weiss Carson was commended for her many years of dedication to the Zoning Commission. Ms. Weiss Carson said she enjoyed serving on the Zoning Commission.

Being that there was no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Kotowski moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dickinson. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jennell Dahlhausen
Zoning Secretary

Date

Tom Warren
Chairman

Date