

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Planning Board
June 28, 2007
Avon City Hall

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Planning Board was called to order by Chairman Mergen at 8:00 P.M. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present – Gerry Kremers, Ken Mergen, Steve Plantenberg, Stephen Saupe; Absent – Lowell Rushmeyer, Joe Scepaniak. Township Supervisor Gondringer was also in attendance.

Minutes: Plantenberg moved to accept the minutes of the 30 May, 2007 meeting. Mergen seconded and the minutes were approved as written.

There were no public hearings scheduled for this meeting.

Sherri Klein, from Klein-Goerger Builders, represented residents Brad Olson & Jean Studniski who were requesting a variance for their property on Shorewood Drive. The owners want to tear down their current home and rebuild it 73 feet from the road, which is within the 93-foot setback. Plantenberg recommended that we recommend to the Supervisors that the Planning Board hold a public hearing at the next meeting (July 25 at 8:15) to act on the request for a setback of 70 feet from the center of Shorewood Drive rather than the 93 feet that is required. The residents were notified of the fee for a Variance Public Hearing (\$150) and were told that it should be received by the Township Clerk by July 11. If the hearing is approved by the Supervisor's, then we will need to public the notice of public hearing and notify the 10 adjacent (closest) property owners. Plantenberg also asked whether we need to inform the Joint Powers Board since the area is a part of the orderly annexation agreement.

Plantenberg reminded the board members about tomorrow's Randall Arendt meeting at St John's.

Plantenberg gave an update on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting for the Stearns County Comprehensive plan. The group has worked through growth plans of the townships and cities and things are going well. CAC will have one final look at the plan and then it will go to the Stearns County Planning Board and finally Board of Commissioners for approval. There will be public hearings about the proposal.

Board members wondered about the progress of the proposal discussed at the previous meeting to connect Avon Estates to the Lake Wobegon trail. No one had heard anything since the previous meeting. Gondringer mentioned that a neighbor seemed agreeable to allowing the trail to cross her land, which would eliminate the need for the current proposal. Board members were concerned about safety issues relating to trails and driveways that connect to township roads. The Board recommended that the Supervisors address standards for driveway & trail approaches to roadways. It was suggested that we could amend the road standards to include driveways and bike entrances and that we tag onto existing county road standards.

Gondringer alerted the Board to a notice he received about a public hearing of the Stearns County Board of Adjustment that will be held tomorrow (June 29) evening to consider a request by Joan Burrow to transfer her building site across County Road 9. Ms. Burrow had appeared at the previous Planning Board meeting (30 May). The Board was surprised to learn about this hearing especially because (1) she was previously told that this plan would likely not be approved and (2) she apparently attended our previous meeting after she had already filed a request for the public hearing with the Board of Adjustment. The Board discussed the proposal which would ultimately take agricultural land out of production and then Mergen recommended that Stearns County Board of Adjustment deny the request. Plantenberg seconded and the motion passed. The Board expressed surprise that the County took so long to notify us of this meeting.

A proposal to hire an intern to organize/scan old documents was briefly discussed.

The dream of owning our own township was briefly discussed.

There is no news about the Ellen's Bar condo plans.

Adjournment: Plantenberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. Mergen seconded and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Saupe
Deputy Clerk

Approved as amended: July 25, 2007