

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Planning Commission

October 26, 2016

Avon Township Hall (16881 Queens Road, Avon)

**Call to Order:** Chairman Huston called to order the regular meeting of the Avon Township Planning Commission at 7:45 PM. in the Main Chamber of the Town Hall.

**Pledge:** Ken Mergen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Present – Will Huston, LeRoy Gondringer Ken Mergen, Gerry Kremers , Deputy Clerk Marion Gondringer-. Absent – Clerk Steve Saupe. Also present: Supervisor Richard Bresnahan

**Approval of Agenda:** Mergen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Gondringer second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** Gondringer moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2016 meeting. Kremers second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Public Hearings:** *none*

## Scheduled Business:

1. **Driveway permit: Doug Reis** requests a permit to build a driveway which would approach his land from Narnia Lane. No concerns were noted. Koopmeiners will inspect once driveway placement is staked out. Motion by Gondringer to recommend approval of the driveway permit for Doug Reis on Narnia Lane. Second by Mergen. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Variance Finding of Facts form revision:** The first question, as currently worded, must be answered in the negative which is out of synch with the remaining questions which must be in the affirmative. The question reads: “Will the issuance of the requested variance allow a use that is prohibited in the zoning district? Yes/No”. To create consistency in requiring all affirmative answers, a proposal to reword this question was addressed. Rewording was discussed. Motion by Mergen to recommend changing the wording of the first question to - “Is the proposed use allowed in the zoning district in which the subject property is located? Yes/No”. Second by Huston. All in favor. Motion carried.
3. **Septic system permitting expectations from County** – Bresnahan explained that Stearns County now requires a septic system review for all shoreland property before a Variance or a Certificate of Compliance is granted. Clerk will research further.

## Other & Old Business:

1. **911 sign for Mary Williams:** Koopmeiners is taking care of installation.
2. **County website search options:** Stearns County is revising the search option format of the County website and would like suggestions for improving searches. Suggestions: Create a default option allowing search of the website while also filtering out documents such as agendas and minutes. Add additional filtering options. Provide search options within ordinances.
3. **Community Innovation Grant** – Huston expressed interest in researching this possibility
4. **Parkwood Circle resident outdoor lighting:** Mergen brings to the attention of the board the fact that a resident in Sunridge has installed a street light in the Township ROW approximately 5-6 feet from the edge of the road. Address: 15701 Parkwood Circle. Koopmeiners will be alerted to inspect.

- 5. Gondringer updated the board concerning ordinance changes that are being discussed at the County level regarding solar gardens and solar farms. The county is also addressing concerns regarding the CUP requirements for conventional subdivisions in the Avon Hills Conservation Overlay District. Public hearing will be November 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:10 PM at the Administration Building.
- 6. Stearns County Parks Board report: Mergen discussed signage that has disappeared on Peach Drive. Peter Theismann at Stearns County Parks has been consulted and will inspect and record the location of signs on Peach Drive. The 3 mile extension to the Wobegon Trail between St. Joseph and Waite Park is being discussed.
- 7. Bresnahan reported on the progress of the St. John’s Solar Garden project.

**Announcements/Reports:**

- 1. **Avon Area Lakes Association:** Supervisors’ decision update: Bresnahan outlined the legalities and lack of authorizing Minnesota Statue allowing donations to AALA. The board informed AALA that the Township cannot legally donate to this organization.
- 2. Notice from Courtney Millaway/ Natural Resource Specialist – Sauk Rapids: removal of seasonal equipment such as docks and rafts should be inspected for invasive species (zebra mussels, faucet snails, etc. Millaway is seeking to build awareness for the practice of invasive species inspection by landowners and lake owners.

**Adjournment:** Megen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM. Gondringer second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is November 30, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marion J. Gondringer, Deputy Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approval:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_