

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Planning Board
October 29, 2008
Avon City Hall

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Avon Township Planning Board was called to order by Chairman Ken Mergen at 8:00 P.M.

Pledge: Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present – Gerry Kremers, Ken Mergen, Roger Nelson, Lowell Rushmeyer and Stephen Saupe.

Approval of Agenda: Additions to the minutes were: Kremers requested a discussion of the Studniski variance. Saupe moved to approve the amended agenda. Mergen seconded. Approved unanimously.

Minutes: Minor typos to the minutes of September 24, 2008 and October 20, 2008 were made. Mergen moved to approve the amended minutes. Nelson seconded. Approved unanimously.

Public Hearings: none scheduled

Business

1. New Board Member – Mergen officially welcomed Roger Nelson to the Planning Board.
2. Assessment of Township Forms – Saupe indicated confusion about having several different versions of various township forms. He provided Board members with copies of the various forms and requested advice on which ones were current and applicable to township business. After considerable discussion and sorting through the various forms, Planning Board members recommend to the Supervisors the following forms should be used: (a) Variance Action – use the forms currently on the web; (b) Driveway Permit – use forms currently on web, add 'Procedures' dated August 15, 2005; (c) Certificate of Compliance – use form on web, add procedure form with modifications (i.e., remove 'zoning administrator'); (d) Conditional Use Permit – forms modified from Stearns County. Rushmeyer will send these to Saupe via email.
3. Noise Issue Discussion – The Board discussed possible solutions to the noise issues raised by neighbors of Cone's Bar. Options included enacting a township-wide noise ordinance or requiring special event permits for large gatherings. Board members could not come to a consensus on the best approach; some favored an ordinance while others a permit. There was general agreement that many of the problems – public indecency, road noise, etc – should be handled by Stearns County without the need for any additional ordinances.
4. Variance Expiration - Kremers indicated that Studniski's, who appeared at a public hearing of the Planning Board on July 25, 2007 to obtain a variance to construct a new home closer to the road than is permitted, had not yet initiated work. Township regulations indicate that the variance is void if substantial improvements are not made within six months. One or more extensions can be granted.

Announcements: There has been no additional news about the Blattner Addition lake access issue. Rushmeyer announced that there was no meeting of the Joint Powers Board. Rushmeyer announced that Blattner Co. has applied to Stearns County to install a wind energy conversion system (WECS = turbine) and will likely approach the township for necessary approvals. There was no news concerning the potential of renting space in the old Blattner building for township records, etc.

Next Meeting: The next Planning Board meeting will be November 26, 2008.

Adjournment: Rushmeyer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 P.M. Mergen seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Saupe
Deputy Clerk

Minutes amended & approved: