

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Township Planning Commission

June 24, 2020

Avon Township Hall (16881 Queens Road, Avon)

**Call to Order:** Chair LeRoy Gondringer called to order the meeting of the Avon Township Planning Commission at 7:00 PM in the Main Chamber of the Town Hall.

**Pledge:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Roll Call:** Present – LeRoy Gondringer, Ken Mergen, Kamela Mohs, Rich Sanoski, and Stephen Saupe.

**Approval of Agenda:** Two variance requests (Beckmann, Ramler) and an update on the Parish cemetery were added to the agenda. Mergen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mohs second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** Mergen moved to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2020 meeting as presented. Mohs second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Public Hearings:** *none scheduled.*

## **Business:**

1. **Bauer Driveway Permit** – Mr. George Bauer appeared to request a driveway permit for his property at 32771 Spunk Tree Circle. He wants to move his existing driveway 40 feet to the east. Gondringer moved to recommend to the Supervisors approval of a driveway permit for Mr. George Bauer contingent on our inspection for suitable location, culverts, etc., and that the existing driveway is removed within one year. Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Ward Variance** – Mr. Edward Ward appeared to request a variance to place a seasonal travel trailer closer to the road than is currently permitted by ordinance at his property on 17731 Upper Spunk Lake Road, Avon (MN). He plans to remove the existing cabin and replace it with a trailer. The exiting concrete slab will remain and retrofitted utilities will be hooked up. The proposed trailer will be smaller and further from the road than the existing structure. Mergen moved to recommend to the Supervisors to set a public hearing on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM to consider the request by Mr. Edward Ward for a variance to place a trailer 14 feet closer to the road than permitted by Township Ordinance #4, Section 9.9. Sanoski second. All in favor. Motion carried.
3. **Beckmann Variance** – Alexander and Kayla Beckmann appeared to request a variance to construct a shed closer to the road than is currently permitted by Township Ordinance #4, Section 9.3, on their property at 32679 Nutcracker Lane, St. Joseph (MN), PID 03.01126.0010. Even though this is a private road that acts as a driveway for them and their neighbor, because it is a named road means it must follow all setback regulations. The Beckmann's stated that because of hills and wet areas there is no other location for the proposed shed. They will mark the proposed site for Township inspection. They propose to place the shed 35 – 40 feet from the existing road. Sanoski moved to recommend to the Supervisors to set a public hearing on July 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:20 PM (or after the Ward hearing) to consider the request by Alexander and Kayla Beckmann to construct a shed 53 feet closer to the road than is currently permitted by Section 9.3, Ordinance #4. Mohs second. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 4. **Ramler Variance** – Chris Ramler appeared to request a variance to construct a 30 x 40 shed on his property at 36903 Pelican Lake Road, Albany (MN), PID 03.01347.0100, that would be 8 feet closer to the road than is currently permitted by Township Ordinance #4, Section 9.9. Mr. Ramler stated that a ravine through his property, as well as lake setbacks, prevented him placing it further from the road. Mergen moved to recommend to the Supervisors to set a public hearing on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:25 PM (or after the Beckmann hearing) to consider the request by Chris Ramler to construct a shed 8 feet closer to the road than is currently permitted by Section 9.9, Ordinance #4. Sanoski second. All in favor. Motion carried.
  
- 5. **Utility Work Permitting** – There was a discussion about whether or not to establish an ordinance/permit system for utility work in the road right-of-way. Various options were considered from not requiring a permit to a full-fledged permit system that must be completed by the contractors prior to the beginning of construction. If we decide to draft an ordinance, the general consensus was that the Town Attorney should be involved. The general consensus was that we should not pursue an ordinance at this time since State Statutes provide reasonable protection, but we should ask any companies planning to do utility work to come to a meeting to explain the nature of the work, timeline, restoration, and how the contractor plans to meet the state statute guidelines. A worksheet of requirements could be developed.
  
- 6. **Road Maintenance Plan** – About two years ago, Koopmeiners ranked Town roads from 1 (poor condition) to 5 (good condition). The Planning Commission recommends that Koopmeiners update this ranking and that a Supervisor could ride along. Once this is completed, then a plan of road maintenance can be developed. It is still not clear how the Town will conduct the Road Inspection considering physical distancing with COVID-19.

**Old Business:** To be considered at a future meeting: Comprehensive Plan; Vacating Peach Drive N.

**Announcements/Reports:**

- 1. **Cemetery Update** – Gondringer reported that the Parish is now considering options about what to do concerning repairing/replacing the fencing and other maintenance in the Upper Spunk Lake Road right-of-way. Liability is a concern for them.
- 2. **Co Rd 9 & The Store** – a resident contacted Sanoski to request a flashing light at this intersection. No action was taken since this is a County road.
- 3. **Knife River** plans to begin the Tower Road, etc. roadwork on June 25<sup>th</sup>.
- 4. The **Avon Compost Site** is now open to Township residents (MWF: 8–7; S: 9-4)

**Adjournment:** Mohs moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 PM. Mergen second. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Other Meetings:** The next PC meeting is July 29,2020 at 7:00 PM. The Supervisor’s July meeting is July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen G. Saupe, Clerk

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ date: June 28, 2020

**Approval:**

\_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Planning Commission Chair – signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Planning Commission Chair – print