

THORN TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date: 2-13-2023

Meeting Type: Regular

Meeting Location: Thorn Township Building, 13780 Zion Road, Thornville, Ohio

Board Members Present: Jim Hay, Brad Blain, Wayne Gniewkowski, Mark Becker, Alternate Mary Alice Stidham, and Alternate Sandy Davis

Zoning Department Members Present: Ed Corns, Zoning Inspector & Deborah Morgan, Zoning Secretary

Guests Present: Bob Coleman

Chairperson Gniewkowski opened the February 2023 regular meeting at 6:30 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Brad Blain, Jim Hay, Mark Becker, Wayne Gniewkowski, Alternate Mary Alice Stidham, and Alternate Sandy Davis. Member Mark Huggins was absent.

The minutes of the January, 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. Jim Hay moved to approve the minutes as presented, Mark Becker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a yes vote of all regular members present.

PRD "The Nest at Buckeye Lake"

Mark Becker moved to continue the PRD "The Nest at Buckeye Lake" discussion until March 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Jim Hay seconded the motion. The motion passed by a yes vote of all regular members present.

Mark Becker moved to cancel the March regular zoning meeting on March 6th and reschedule it to March 21st at 6:00 p.m., to hold both our regular meeting and the PRD discussion in the same meeting, Jim Hay seconded the motion. The motion passed by a yes vote of all regular members present.

Zoning Inspector Report

Zoning Inspector Corns reported the following recent permits:

Accessory building on St. Rt. 188

Boat Dock on Twp. Rd. 1071

Lot Split on Lonesome Road

New Construction on Blackbird Lane

Inspector Corns informed the board that he and the Zoning Secretary will not be able to attend the April Zoning Meeting scheduled for April 10th. After a brief discussion Brad Blain moved to cancel the April 10th regular zoning meeting, Mark Becker seconded the motion. The motion passed with a yes vote from members Blain, Becker, Gniewkowski and Stidham and a no vote from member Hay.

Open Items for Discussion

Guest Thorn Township Trustee Bob Coleman addressed the zoning board on the issue of commercial solar panel fields. Trustee Coleman stated that currently the zoning regulations do not address solar panels. Zoning member Brad Blain stated that since they are a utility there wasn't any regulations that could be enforced. Trustee Coleman stated that since they will more than likely want to come to the area he feels there should be some regulations within our zoning. Zoning Inspector Ed Corns stated that this subject should go to our Zoning Attorney for their legal opinion of what can be addressed with solar panels. Inspector Corns stated he will send an email with this question to Attorney Griggs. Member Brad Blain stated that he has been attending Fairfield Community meetings concerning this issue and he will make some inquiries as to how they are handling this issue and report back to the board.

Chairman Wayne Gniewkowski wanted to know if there was any update from our zoning attorney on the status of the zoning regulation re-write. Mr. Gniewkowski stated that he would contact our attorney as to the status.

Visitor Comments

None

Zoning Commission Member Comments/Questions

None

Agenda for next Monthly Zoning Meeting

PRD "The Nest at Buckeye Lake"

Open Items for discussion

Update from Zoning Chairman Gniewkowski on Status of Zoning Regulation Re-write

Update from Zoning Co-Chairman Blain on his findings from Fairfield County on Solar Panel Regulations

After no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Deborah Morgan, Zoning Secretary