

**ADA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2020 MEETING**

A meeting of the Ada Township Planning Commission was held on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., via video/audio-conferencing, in conformance with Public Act 228 of 2020 concerning temporary authorization of remote participation in public meetings.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Burton, Butterfield, Carter, Easter, Heglund, Jacobs

Absent: 0

Staff Present: Buckley, Ferro, Suchy

Others Present: 3; Leisman as Supervisor-elect

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Carter, supported by Easter, to approve the agenda as written.

Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE AUGUST 20, 2020 MEETING

Moved by Carter, supported by Easter, to approve the minutes as written.

Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Review draft zoning ordinance amendment concerning keeping of poultry

Ferro stated the Planning Commission held a public hearing in February on a proposed set of regulations for keeping of small quantities of backyard poultry. There was postponed action following the public hearing due to some concern expressed by Commission Members that the previous draft was not clear as to how it applied to properties in the rural districts, in particular the AGP, RP-1, RP-2 and the Rural Residential districts where the keeping of farm animals is already a permitted use. Ferro said some tweaking of the rules has been done to establish a separate set of standards for small quantities of poultry.

Ferro referred to the Zoning Ordinance Amendment included in the packet and summarized that the amendment would permit the keeping of poultry in the Residential zoning districts (on lots of less than 5 acres) subject to the list of standards that apply, which include the amount of poultry kept, required setback of henhouses/poultry coops from dwellings on adjacent properties, square footage limits for henhouses/poultry coops, as well as other related items.

Ferro stated on lots larger than 5 acres there is a statement that exempts poultry coops from the 150-foot setback that currently applies to all farm buildings that are housing animals, but other than that, the same pre-existing rules regarding the keeping of animals apply.

Ferro stated a similar set of standards are established for the higher density residential districts, the R-1, R-2, R-3, and Village Residential districts, which are basically the same standards.

Ferro advised we should hold another public hearing on the proposed rules if the Commission is satisfied with this draft and schedule that for the December meeting.

Easter shared concern that there is no consideration that the animals are being taken care of. Ferro stated the approach we take here is the same as our zoning rules for keeping domestic pets and we don't have rules on the care of pets, but that they just can't run at large or have excessive barking/noises.

Jacobs questioned the size of hen house of only 80 square feet and that it seems small for 6 chickens. Ferro stated we have looked at ordinances from other communities and also consulted with someone with experience of keeping backyard chickens and the space is plenty big.

Jacobs asked if the area is greater than 5-acres is there a restriction on how big the run area is. Ferro stated we don't regulate how chickens are kept on larger lots other than the standard that any farm building housing animals is required to be 150 ft. from any property line.

It was moved by Easter, supported by Burton, to schedule a public hearing for chickens in December. Motion passed with roll call vote 6-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Ferro shared a draft of a Resolution, in honor of Ross Leisman's time/dates as the Planning Commission Chair, and asked the Commission to consider adopting it.

Easter stated that Ross has made us all very proud and working with him has been a sheer joy and loved the way he has represented our Commission and our Community and has resolved issues that have come up over the years he has served.

It was moved by Carter, supported by Jacobs, to adopt the Resolution in honor of Ross Leisman's dedicated time with the Planning Commission. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0.

VIII. COMMISSION MEMBER / STAFF REPORTS – none

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leisman, residing at 2363 Honeycreek, attending the meeting tonight as a member of the public. Leisman informed us that his first official act as Supervisor is to appoint Tom Korth to the Planning Commission. Korth was previously on the Planning Commission approximately 5 years ago. Leisman extended a sincere thank you for the Resolution and the opportunity to work with the Commission members and that it has been a pleasure and an honor.

Charles Hively observed the zoom meeting and shared his public comment regarding when the Board makes a 'motion' to approve something, you could streamline it, and you could 'move to approve by unanimous consent'. Butterfield thanked Mr. Hively for his suggestion.

Tom Korth spoke and shared his conversation with Leisman that he was interested to come back and rejoin the Planning Commission and hopes for the support from the Township Board.

Easter and Butterfield shared kind words about working with Korth in the past and welcomed him.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Easter, supported by Carter, to adjourn meeting at 7:24 p.m. Motion accepted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Ada Township Clerk

rs:eb