

Hopkins Township Planning Commission
Minutes Special Meeting 5/31/2011

Planning Commission Members: Chair Mark Forbes; Lori Castello; Tadd Heft; Lee Murray; Mike Timmer; Chuck Wamhoff; Fred Morley

Members Present: Lori Castello; Mark Forbes; Lee Murray; Chuck Wamhoff; Fred Morley

Meeting Called to Order at: 7:00 PM Meeting Adjourned at: 8:45 PM

Location: Hopkins Library

- + Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Forbes.
- + Commission attendance noted above.
- + Kirk Scharphorn Zoning Administrator in attendance.

- May 3, 2011 Special Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the May 3, 2011 Special Meeting were previously emailed to Commissioners and were briefly discussed.

MOTION: A motion was made and supported to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2011 meeting. This motion was approved.

Agenda

- Discussion of revisions to our zoning ordinance for signs: This is the only item on the agenda.

We previously decided to use the Kalamazoo Township Sign Ordinance as a model for developing our sign ordinance. We had previously requested that the Township Board impose a six month moratorium on signs. It was reported that the Board approved this moratorium. We therefore are under a six months time frame to develop our sign ordinance.

We went through the Kalamazoo Township Sign Ordinance paragraph by paragraph. Our Zoning Ordinance in general is intended to protect the health and welfare of the public. Points noted in the discussion were: definition of terms; types of signs; number of signs on a property; portable signs; repair and maintenance of signs; signs using natural resources; signs on utility poles illegal; sign illumination; flashing signs prohibited; limits of message on signs; signs in various zoning districts; human signs; fees and permits; non-conformance with Ordinance, including time limits; clear vision area along streets and at intersections; sign size; signs in residential districts; sign location including distance from street right-of way lines; using the term “non-residential” rather than commercial in reference to certain signs.

We need to examine the Kalamazoo Township Ordinance to determine residential zoning density, so we can match densities with our zoning districts.

We need to continue to work on our sign ordinance because of the time constraint we are under. Therefore, we will meet June 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM to further develop our sign ordinance.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Submitted by:

Fred Morley, Secretary
Hopkins Township Planning Commission

Minutes approved: