

WALKER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
January 18, 2017

Members Present – William Workman
Dennis Walizer
Ronald Zimmerman
Daniel Mattern
Donna Reese

Members Absent – John McCarthy
Gregory Poorman

Guests - Mark Lachat
Bob Jacobs (Centre County Planning Office)
Dan Heverly
David Emery, Jr.
Angel Emery
Ronald Stover
Penny Stover
Rachel Heverly
Gerald Lucas

Call to Order:

Vice-Chairman Dennis Walizer called the January 18, 2017 reorganization meeting of the Walker Township Planning Commission to order at 6:00pm in the Walker Township Municipal Building.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Walizer led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of December 2016 Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the December 14, 2016 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Ron Zimmerman; motion second by Bill Workman and approved by all members attending.

Dan Mattern motioned to reorganize the Planning Commission for 2017 as follows:

Chairman – William Workman

Vice-Chairman – Dennis Walizer

Secretary – Donna Reese

Motion second by Ron Zimmerman and approved by all members attending.

Chairman Workman then presided over the remainder of the meeting.

The guests listed above were here to discuss their petition/request for proposed rezoning of their properties from Urban Residential to Agricultural. Mr. Lucas presented a written statement requesting his name be withdrawn from the petition; he does not

want his property rezoned to Agricultural. He stated that although he supports the petitioners' right to have livestock on their properties, he does not want his property rezoned.

Angel Emery stated they would like to have a horse and some chickens on their property but it is not permitted in the Urban Residential Zoning District, so she contacted the Centre County Planning Office (Sue Hannegan) for assistance. The County provided area maps of the current zoning, maps showing the petitioned residents request and also maps of what the County recommends for the zoning districts. The residents attending the meeting (except Mr. Lucas) voiced their support of the rezoning.

Bob Jacobs (County Planning Office) also spoke about the rezoning request and stated the County recommends the rezoning as shown on their recommendation.

Some comments and/or questions from the Planning Commission concerned manure management practices, soil erosion and also environmental issues. The members were also concerned with some property owners' land included on the County's recommended rezoning maps but whose signatures were not included on the petition.

It was suggested that a possible option might be to add 'livestock permitted' to the Urban Residential District instead of rezoning the properties to Agricultural. Mr. Jacobs felt this could create more issues in the more dense areas of the Urban Residential District.

The residents are going to get together and possibly submit another proposal in the future.

Zoning Officer Vaughn Zimmerman presented his December 2016 permit activity report. He also reported the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission was meeting Thursday, Jan 19th at Marion Township.

An email from Cynthia Kunes expressing her continued interest in being on the Planning Commission was acknowledged.

There was no other business to discuss.

Denny Walizer motioned to adjourn the meeting; motion second by Dan Mattern and approved by all members attending. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Donna L. Reese, Secretary

Next Planning Commission meeting is Wednesday, February 15th @ 6:00pm