

Portland Township Planning Commission Minutes
Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Ross Schneider called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll was taken by Ross Schneider:

Present: Marcy Lay, Andrew Huhn, Tony Dixon, Evelyn Walkington-Jensen, Ross Schneider

Excused: Sue VanLente

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Marcy Lay, seconded by Tony Dixon, all were in favor.

Public Comments: None

Election of Officers: Motion by Marcy Lay to elect Ross Schneider as Chair, seconded by Tony Dixon. Ross accepted the nomination. All were in favor.

Motion by Marcy Lay to elect Andrew Huhn as Vice Chair, seconded by Ross Schneider. Andrew accepted the nomination. All were in favor.

Motion by Ross Schneider to elect Sue VanLente as Secretary, seconded by Marcy Lay. Sue accepted the nomination via phone. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bob Lenneman – Property Rezone Application Public Hearing:

Explanation was given by Ross Schneider and Bob Lenneman. Jeanne also provided additional information. Public present asked:

Property owner that is adjacent to the proposed driveway asked if there will be a lot of traffic. Bob responded that it will be normal traffic in during the am, employees arriving at work and then departing to jobs, and visa versa at the end of the day. There will be no heavy truck traffic.

Property owner that is adjacent to the proposed business asked about noise from the business. Bob stated that it is a not a retail, nor manufacturing business, so there would be no noise from the business other than employees loading and unloading forms and materials.

Property owner near the property asked what the plan for completion was. Bob stated that he is currently going through the processes and has hopes to have his plans complete and approved this year, with the potential to start construction. He assumes it will be 2024 before he is occupying the property if all goes well.

Planning Commission members discussion was held and a motion by Andrew, seconded by Marcy to approve the rezone application for Bob Lenneman. Motion passed. This recommendation will go to the Portland Township Board for approval.

Text Amendments –

Explanation was given by Ross Schneider:

Ross read the text amendments. There was no public comment. Discussion was held. Motion to approve the text amendments was made by Marcy Lay, seconded by Evelyn Walkington-Jensen. Motion passed. This recommendation will go to the Portland Township Board for approval.

Master Plan Update Project-

Jeanne explained the small adjustments that were made to the Master Plan that this commission approved. The plan will be loaded to the website tonight and letters will be sent to surrounding communities and other interested parties with a comment period that shall be open for comments through the end of March. The commission decided not to set a special meeting to consider these comments, rather, will put this on the June 7th regular meeting schedule for a public hearing.

PC Member Applications –

Two applications were received to fill the position on the planning commission. The two candidates were Tim Kerekes and Michael Culp. Discussion was held on both candidates, reviewing the applications. The PC feels both would be great fits for the PC members and would support either. A motion was made by Evelyn Walkington-Jensen to support Michael Culp for the open commission seat, seconded by Tony Dixon. Motion passed. This recommendation will go to the Portland Township Board for approval.

Public Comments – None

Planning Commission Comments – None

Future Meetings: June 7, September 6, December 6

Motion to adjourn was made by Marcy Lay, seconded by Andrew Huhn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.