

Burlington Township Planning Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chair Blair at 6:30pm at the Burlington Church of God. Paul Lippens from McKenna was in attendance to present their recommendations on the Steury text amendment.

Roll was taken. Norm Korn, Carol Adams, Jeremy Steele, Jeff Eyre, Chad Blair, Mary Guthrie, and Brad Hall were all present.

Motion by Steele and support by Adams to approve the minutes of 11-25-2019. Motion carried.

Motion by Steele and Support by Adams to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Paul Lippens presented Mckennas recommendations on the Steury text amendment. The Planning Commission discussed these recommendations and agreed with most of them.

Motion by Eyre and support by Steele to recommend approval and have Chair Blair redraft the Steury text amendment utilizing the recommendations by Mckenna that the PC discussed adopting. The motion also included sending the revised text amendment to John Mcfarlane to be put into proper form before sending it to the County Planning Commission for their recommendation.

A roll call vote was called by Chair Blair. Guthrie-yes, Eyre-yes, Hall-yes, Korn-yes, Adams-yes, Steele-yes, Blair-yes.

Elections for the Planning Commission were conducted. Nominations for Chair were opened.

Motion by Eyre and support by Adams to nominate Chad Blair for Chair. Nominations closed.

A roll call vote was called by Chair Blair. Eyre-yes, Hall-yes, Adams-yes, Steele-yes, Guthrie-yes, Korn-yes, Blair-abstain.

Nominations for Vice Chair were opened. Motion by Eyre and support by Adams to nominate Jeremy Steele for Vice Chair. Nominations were closed. A roll call vote was called by Chair Blair. Adams-yes, Korn-yes, Hall-yes, Guthrie-yes, Blair-yes, Eyre-yes, Steele-abstain.

Discussion on the Girod private cemetery. Mike Steury had submitted the paperwork that was requested by the Planning Commission. This included a notarized letter from Alvin Girod giving Mike Steury permission to speak on Mr. Gorods behalf to discuss the cemetery with the planning commission. Also included was a letter from the Calhoun County Health Dept stating that they had conducted soil tests and examined the plat layout and had no objections to the cemetery. Also included was paperwork from the State where the Amish Church had applied to be incorporated as a legal entity. This was sent to John Mcfarlane and he found that the Burlington Old Order Amish Church was duly incorporated as a domestic nonprofit on 1-9-2020 By the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. A quit claim deed application was also included that would transfer ownership of the 1 acre parcel to the newly incorporated Burlington Old Order Amish Church. Paperwork showing that a split was granted was also included. John Mcfarlane agreed that all of this paperwork was in order. Discussion began about the conditions that would be placed on this cemetery. It was requested by Mike Steury

that the Planning Commission research surrounding Townships Amish cemeteries and find out if vaults were required in those Townships.

There were several comments from the public about the proposed cemetery. Some of these were about protecting our Township by requiring burial vaults, was it a requirement for Gary Miller to have burial vaults in his private cemetery, if it is not a State or County requirement how does the Planning Commission think it can require burial vaults? It was noted by Carol Adams that burial vaults are required in all Township cemeteries.

Motion by Steele and support by Guthrie to table the Girod private cemetery application until the Planning Commission can investigate if burial vaults or bonds are required in other townships Amish cemeteries and whether these were requirements in Gary Miller's private cemetery.

A roll call vote was called by Chair Blair. Hall-yes, Eyre-yes, Steele-yes, Adams-yes, Guthrie-yes, Korn-yes, Blair-yes.

Motion by Steele and support by Eyre to adjourn at 8:07pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Chad Blair-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chad Blair', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeremy Steele-Vice Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Steele', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.