

**TOWNSHIP OF STRONACH**  
**Planning Commission**  
**(Manistee County)**  
**2471 Main St RR3**  
**Manistee Michigan, 49660**

**Stronach Township Planning Meeting – May 27, 2020**

Call meeting to order with pledge at 6:30 pm.

Present were: Carl Lacki, Ann Hooghart, Bob Rishel, Connie Tewes, Phil Landis. Larry Thompson, Zoning Administrator.

Motion made to accept the meeting agenda as presented for May 27, 2020. Motion made by Hooghart with a second by Landis. Motion carried. Motion made by Hooghart to accept the March 4, 2020 planning meeting minutes as presented. Second by Lacki and motion carried.

**Public comment:** Resident Mike Walter asked if there was anything that could be done about the noise level and speed of trucks on Water Street and Stronach Road. He wondered if there was any help available from the County Road Commission such as installing speed limit signs or signs regarding the usage of jake breaks within that area.

Bob Rishel answered in his capacity as a commissioner on the Road Commission board. The Road Commission has had issues in the past with not being able to post signs regarding jake brake usage. He also explained that the speed limit issue must be addressed with the Michigan State Police. He noted that the Stronach Township Board may be a good resource and its next meeting is on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Zoning Administrator Report:** Land permits have been increasing. Larry was contacted by individuals interested in purchasing land and being allowed to build a pole barn and have a place to park their trailer. Upon finding out that Stronach Township was the only entity in the area to permit this, they commented they would be likely to purchase in the Township.

**Communications:** None received.

**Committee Reports:** No reports.

**Old Business:** Future use of Skocelas fire barn – Discussion covered the following points:

- The building is a Township resource that should be used for the residents' benefit.
- Need for a definitive answer as to the fire department's goals for the building.
- Other communities such as Norman and Onekama have a community center used by the residents for various club and group activities.
- Need for larger quarters for fire department equipment than is currently available.

It was proposed that the Planning Board bring alternatives to the Township Board by a to-be-determined deadline at the next meeting.

Update on Tondu MMF: Larry distributed a memo from Jim, Joe & Austin Tondu on the lack of progress of construction on their property. They expressed regret for the delay and frustration over the problems that have arisen with changing regulations and the COVID shutdown. They plan to have something going by the end of the summer.

Board discussion was on whether to offer opportunities to others who may be interested in operating a medical and/or recreational marijuana facility.

#### **New Business:**

- River Property Improvements – Bob Rishel appointed a 5-person committee to review possible options for access and usage. Members are Phil Landis, Carl Lacki, Terry Lindeman, Tom Walden, and Mike Walter. There is some funding available to the Township.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment Sanctuary discussion is postponed until June's meeting.
- ORV – Phil Landis was approached by a few residents on the possibility of ORV use being allowed in the Township. He explained the difference between ORVs and ATVs. Sally and Steve Blank mentioned that Norman Township is okay with ORV use and found it could be helpful to small business. Board members agreed to research it before the next regular meeting.

#### **Public Comment**

Bob Rishel asked for final comments from both the board and the audience: Larry Thompson noted that it is typically ORV riders that are bad actors that ruin things for all ORV riders while Annie Hooghart commented she is not in favor of permitting ORVs. Connie Tewes noted in depends on circumstances and controls.

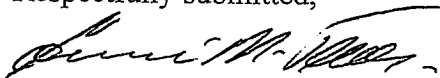
Carl Lacki noted that law enforcement could be an answer to the speed and noise issue. Mike Walter offered his help if he could do anything to assist with the Jake brake problem. Steve Blank commented on the idea of advertising for other potential investors in a marijuana facility could be expensive.

#### **June Meeting Agenda**

- Skocelas fire barn update
- Tondu facility update
- Proposal to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment sanctuary Township
- ORV
- River property committee update if any

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Connie M. Tewes

Stronach Township Planning Commission Secretary