

ISABELLA COUNTY  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
January 17, 2007

Room 225  
Isabella County Building

A regular meeting of the Isabella County Zoning Board of Appeals was held January 17, 2007 in room 225 of the Isabella County Building, 200 North Main Street, Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roy Ranck, Jim Wynes, Tom Courser, Craig Schripsema,  
Gordon Gilchrist

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT: Mike Zalewski, Planner/Zoning Administrator  
Brandy Freed, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 9:00 a.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Mr. Courser opened nominations for Chairperson.

Mr. Ranck nominated Mr. Courser for Chairperson, supported by Mr. Wynes.

Mr. Courser called for any other nominations twice.

YES: Gilchrist, Schripsema, Wynes, Ranck, Courser  
No: None

By a unanimous vote, Mr. Courser was declared Chairperson.

Mr. Courser opened nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

Mr. Ranck nominated Mr. Wynes for Vice-Chairperson, supported by Mr. Gilchrist.

Mr. Courser called for any other nominations twice.

YES: Gilchrist, Schripsema, Courser, Ranck, Wynes  
No: None

By a unanimous vote, Mr. Wynes was declared Chairperson.

Mr. Courser opened nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Wynes nominated Mr. Ranck for Secretary, supported by Mr. Schripsema.

Mr. Courser called for any other nominations twice.

YES: Gilchrist, Wynes, Courser, Ranck, Schripsema

No: None

By a unanimous vote, Mr. Ranck was declared Secretary.

Mr. Courser stated that there was a note that they should discuss other times for their meetings. He asked if there had been any public comments about the current meeting dates and times.

Mr. Zalewski stated that there had not been any public comments, but at the last Planning Commission meeting Commissioner Alwood expressed concern about moving the meeting to a night meeting. He explained that she has expressed this concern in the past and she strongly suggested it and wanted to go on the record stating that the meeting should be moved to a night meeting to better accommodate the public.

Mr. Courser stated that he does not have a problem with it.

Mr. Wynes stated that he thought it was a 50-50 split of people, there are surely people who could come in the evening and there are people who come during the day. He also stated that he does not see a need to change it.

Mr. Ranck made a motion, supported by Mr. Wynes to hold the regular Zoning Board of Appeals meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. in room 225 of the Isabella County Building, provided there is an agenda.

Discussion was held on the motion.

Mr. Wynes stated that in the winter time they may want to start a little later on account of bad weather.

Mr. Courser stated that if they do that they will have to change the times for the whole year.

Mr. Wynes stated they he had missed a meeting a year ago because of freezing rain.

Mr. Zalewski explained that they would have to set their meeting dates and times for the whole year. If weather comes into play and applicants can't make it they can be postponed to next months meeting. As far as changing the meeting time because of weather would be difficult because you would have to post notice 18 hours prior to the new time.

Mr. Courser stated that he could see where the night meetings would be more accommodating to some people, but as far as more people coming to the meetings nobody comes unless it's for a variance or they have a problem.

Mr. Zalewski stated that the office has never heard any complaints. Staff has actually heard from people that they are glad it's in the morning and not at night. It has been on Wednesday's at 9:00 a.m. for about twenty years.

Mr. Wynes stated that you sometimes get elderly who would rather drive during the day than at night.

Chairman Courser called for a vote on the motion.

YES: Courser, Wynes, Gilchrist, Schripsema, Ranck

NO: None

Motion to hold the regular Zoning Board of Appeals meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. in room 225 of the Isabella County Building carried.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

#### PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the December 20, 2006 meeting were approved as submitted.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None heard.

#### STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Zalewski stated that he would like to welcome Mr. Schripsema and Mr. Gilchrist to the board. Mr. Schripsema was appointed by the Planning Commission this year for the Zoning Board of Appeals representative. Mr. Gilchrist replaced Ms. Webster who resigned from the board last year.

Mr. Zalewski stated that in their packets they received a variance report which was for your information so you can review what cases you heard last year. There were 14 applications and 1 was withdrawn 13 were heard before this board, and the board denied 9 of those.

Mr. Zalewski also stated that our office sent out a flyer for the February 1<sup>st</sup> training session. It is called How to Stay Out of Court (or 28 Ways to Stay Out of Trouble). You should be receiving a copy of that flyer in the mail in the next few days.

#### BOARD COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by call of the Chair at 9:14 a.m.

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Roy Ranck, Secretary

Brandy Freed, Recording Secretary

Unapproved