

VALLEY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY OCTOBER 25, 2011

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair Garofalo.

Roll Call:

Members present: Harry Smith, Carol Browne, Brandee Ellis, Fred Lewis, Tony Garofalo

Excused Absence: Paul Shamblin, Zoning Administrator

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Brandee Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes supported by Fred Lewis. The September 27, 2011 Planning Commission minutes were approved as read.

Approval of Agenda: Brandee Ellis made a motion to approve the Agenda supported by Fred Lewis. Chair Garofalo asked to include a report from the Planning Commission Basic Training Seminar under new business. Secretary Browne asked to include recognition of Chair Garofalo's 75th birthday. Both suggestions were accepted. The October 25, 2011 Planning Commission agenda was approved as amended.

Old Business:

A. Medical Marihuana Ordinance

A new draft of the Medical Marihuana Ordinance that included suggestions made by the State Police officers who attended last month's meeting and simplified language based on other home occupation ordinances in Valley Township was discussed. Minor editorial changes were made to ensure consistency of language and accuracy with other Valley Township ordinances.

A resolution to accept the Medical Marihuana Ordinance with changes was made by Fred Lewis and supported by Harry Smith. A roll call vote resulted in unanimous passage of the revised Ordinance. The ordinance will be sent to the township attorney for review and an announcement of a public hearing published in the paper. A public hearing will be held on November 22, 2011 during the regular Planning Commission meeting.

B. Fall Workshop for Wood Burning Furnaces

The date for the workshop is November 12, 2011 from 10:00 am until noon. Posters have been distributed and several businesses have agreed to participate. We still need someone to represent the insurance companies. Brandee Ellis will make further inquiries to find someone to fill this responsibility.

New Business:

Wireless Communication Towers

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Chair Garofalo presented a first draft of a Wireless Communication Ordinance. Following a lengthy discussion, a revised draft included five sections dealing with requirements surrounding the Zoning, Construction, Damage Resulting From the Tower, Franchise Requirements and Discontinued Service or Use of the Tower. Chair Garofalo will bring the revised Ordinance to the November 22nd meeting for further discussion.

Report on Planning Commission Basic Training Seminar

Seminar workshop leaders suggested to participants that (a) planning commission minutes should include names attached to statements whenever possible; (b) minutes should be available to the public within eight days of the meeting; (c) minutes should clearly state a motion “did not pass” rather than saying it failed; (d) closed meeting minutes cannot be obtained through FOIA; (e) public comment sessions should limit the time speakers can talk and should limit the number of times a person can speak on a single subject. These items will be taken into consideration in the future.

Zoning Administrator Report

No report

Open Discussion on Non-Agenda items

None

Adjournment

Harry Smith made a motion to adjourn supported by Fred Lewis. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol S. Browne, Secretary