



# DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2009

Deerfield Township Hall

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by chairman, Jim Wynes at 7:00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Al Johns, Virginia Wood, Jim Wynes, Janice Zeien, Ward Farquer Janine Janoski

**ABSENT:** none

**AGENDA REVIEW:** Al Johns asked for an addition to “new business” to address the problems and complaints made about language and trash by canoe traffic on the river.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Minutes of the last meeting were presented. After correcting some typo’s the minutes were approved. Motion to approve made by Al Johns, seconded by Gary Knight.

**Zoning Administrator’s Report:** no report at this time

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairmen Jim Wynes decided to go directly to” new business” instead of “ public comment for agenda items” so he could explain about the letter the township received in response to our inquiries to the township attorney concerning the complaints made about the Hubscher gravel pit. Chairmen Wynes addressed the large group at the meeting (about 35 people) to clarify some of the points made in Mr. Hackett’s letter (copy attached).

Chairmen Wynes then asked the members of the planning commission if they had any questions or comments. Gary Knight brought up questions about reclamation of the land when the gravel operation is done, and making the pit operation more acceptable to

people in the area. Mr. Knight and Mr. Ken Hubble met with Mr. Chuck Hubscher and discussed things like a berm along Gilmore road, and planting trees. Anything along those lines is beyond the scope of this body. Things like this would have to be worked out between Mr. Hubscher and the people in the area.

**Public comment on agenda items:**

A gentleman asked where they could go to get Hubscher to address these complaints. Chairmen Wynes explained that this Planning Commission has no authority to do anything to address these complaints because the gravel operation has been “grandfathered in”, meaning it was in operation before our zoning was put into effect April 18, 2001.

Chairmen Wynes explained several times, that according to our ordinances, and the Lawyer’s interpretation of them, Hubscher is within his rights to operate the business as he has been doing. Many people were upset by Mr. Hackett’s interpretation, and wanted clarification on some points. Chairman Wynes answered as many questions as he could, but as he explained to the people: He is not a lawyer, and has to abide by the findings of the township legal counsel.

**Unfinished Business:**

- 1) Deerfield Township Fire Dept. meeting with the Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled for Tue. Sept. 17, 2009 at 7 pm.
- 2) Dry Hydrant set-backs: It has been suggested by the county sheriff that we draft an ordinance to cover set-backs. If we have an ordinance on the books, the sheriff’s dept. can police them for us. Al Johns said he will check with the MTA to see what suggestions they have for such an ordinance.

**New Business:**

- 1) There have been complaints filed concerning foul language, and trash caused by tubers and canoes on the river. The township attorney, Mr. Hackett, has suggested wording for an ordinance to cover such occurrences. The commission will address this issue at our next meeting.

**Public comment:**

Several more questions about the Hubscher issue.

A gentleman asked questions and made suggestions concerning the proposed radio tower for the Deerfield Township Fire Dept. It was suggested to him to come to the ZBA meeting on Sept. 17.

Motion to adjourn made by Gary Knight and seconded by Al Johns. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

**NEXT MEETING: November 10, 2009 at 7pm**

