

EUREKA TOWNSHIP

DAKOTA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

April 7, 2020

7:00 P.M.

Due to the Peacetime Emergency declared by Governor Walz under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 12, the Health Pandemic that is COVID-19 as labeled by the Center for Disease Control, and the Stay-at-Home Order as declared by Minnesota Executive Order 20-20, the following meeting shall be conducted entirely through teleconferencing or other electronic means.

Call to Order

The Planning Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Vice Chair Bill Funk via WebEx.

Members Present: Bill Funk, Allen Novacek, Julie Larson, and Randy Wood.

Others Present: Raneé Solis (Town Clerk), Nancy Sauber, Ralph Fredlund, Gloria Belzer, Brian Ahern, Mark Ceminsky, Ken Malecha, Marcia Wilson, Matthew Marschall, Stephanie Marschall, Bill Clancy, Lu Barfknecht, Tim Murphy, Donovan Palmquist.

Approval of the Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:

1. Add item after Deputy Clerk Issues, Review of online meeting effectiveness.

Motion: Commissioner Funk moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Larson. A roll call vote was taken: Al Novacek – Aye; Julie Larson – Aye; Randy Wood – Aye; Bill Funk – Aye. *Motion carried 4-0.*

Citizen Inquiry

Ken Malecha – Ag Preserve

Mr. Malecha presented a question regarding a 40-acre parcel of land that is currently in Ag Preserve. He asked if the land could be split into four 10-acre parcels and still retain Ag Preserve status. Commissioner Larson stated that metropolitan Ag Preserve properties can only remove the Ag Preserve status 8 years after request, and the request must be submitted by June 1st. Commissioner Funk expressed that the County Assessor pointed out that the property in question appears to be woodland and not farming. Commissioner Larson responded that woodland is listed as an Ag use under Minn. Stat. 473H.02. Commissioner Novacek stated that his understanding of the statute, as well, is that land does not have to be farmed to be in Ag Preserve. Commissioner Wood questioned whether timberland would have to be harvested at some point. The general consensus was that it did not. As to the lot split, Commissioner Larson expressed that it is her understanding that building rights could not be transferred until after the parcels are out of Ag Preserve.

Permit Requests

Matthew & Stephanie Marschall, 7429 280th St W, PID 13-13400-53-012 – Garage addition

Motion: Commissioner Novacek moved to forward the application request to the Town Board with the recommendation to approve the garage addition for Matthew and Stephanie Marschall on PID 13-13400-53-012, seconded by Vice Chair Funk.

Commissioner Larson asked for clarification on whether the garage addition including living space, as the drawing labeled the addition as a porch with several windows. Matthew Marschall explained that he is adding a fourth stall to the 3-car garage. Stephanie Marschall stated that the contractor labeled the addition as a porch in order to differentiate between the existing garage and the new addition.

A roll call vote was taken: Al Novacek – Aye; Randy Wood – Aye; Julie Larson – Aye; Bill Funk – Aye. *Motion carried 4-0.*

Land Use

(None)

Town Board Liaison Report (Ralph Fredlund)

Supervisor Fredlund provided a summary of the March 9, 2020, Town Board meeting:

- The garage permit for Blake Rothnem was approved.
- The Board approved placement of No Through Truck Traffic signs from Cedar & 225th to Highview & 225th.
- The Board approved the proposal from Kelly & Lemmons for legal services.

Old Business

Solar energy text amendment

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed text amendment as presented by ex-commissioner Ralph Fredlund. The Commissioners agreed that, given the social distancing and stay at home mandate by the Governor, it would be best to table this item until it is okay to proceed with a Public Hearing. Commissioner Novacek suggested that item (i) on the proposed text amendment, labeled page 84, be stricken.

Motion: Commissioner Novacek moved to strike (i) on page 84, prepare the text amendment in typed form and to table the item until a public hearing can be scheduled, seconded by Vice Chair Funk. A roll call vote was taken: Al Novacek – Aye; Julie Larson – Aye; Randy Wood – Nay; Bill Funk – Aye. *Motion carried 3-1*, with Commissioner Wood opposed.

Motion: Vice Chair Funk moved to clarify that the drafted text amendment for the public hearing should show all additions and deletions from the current Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Novacek. A roll call vote was taken: Julie Larson – Aye; Randy Wood – Aye; Al Novacek – Aye; Bill Funk – Aye. *Motion carried 4-0.*

New Business

(None)

Minutes Approval

Minutes of the March 4, 2020, Planning Commission meeting

Commissioner Larson requested that the date of the meeting be corrected from March 3rd to March 4th.

Motion: Commissioner Novacek moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Wood. A roll call vote was taken: Julie Larson – Aye; Al Novacek – Aye; Randy Wood – Aye; Bill Funk – Aye. *Motion carried 4-0.*

Deputy Clerk Issues

(None)

Review of Online Meeting Effectiveness

Due to the bandwidth issue with WebEx, it was recommended that the Clerk set up a test meeting using Zoom to see if the same issues exist.

Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Larson moved to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chair Funk. A roll call vote was taken: Julie Larson – Aye; Al Novacek – Aye; Randy Wood – Aye; Bill Funk – Aye. *Motion carried 4-0.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ranee Solis, Town Clerk

Minutes Officially Approved By: _____ on: _____
Planning Commissioner Date