

Rutland Charter Township Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 7 pm

Roll Call Members Present:

Larry Haywood, Brenda Bellmore, Steve Pachulski, Dan King, Marti Mayack

Others Present:

Stacey Graham, Nickie Haight

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Bellmore, seconded by King to approve the agenda for February 7, 2024. All ayes. Motion passes.

Meeting Minutes:

Motion by King, seconded by Pachulski to accept the January 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Roll Call Vote: Haywood - Yes, King - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Pachulski - Yes, Mayack - Yes. Motion passes.

General Public Comment: None

Guests: None

Zoning Administrator's Report:

Graham has provided her report to the PC and all items will be covered under new and old business.

New Business:

Public Hearing - Editing Section 220:2:2 of the Rutland Charter Township Code to delete the definition for the term "Animal Unit"

There is no public comment. Graham shares that Attorney Rolfe feels the Animal Unit definition should only be listed in the Country Residential (CR) Section 220-5-3.H., as that is the only zoning area allowable (other than agriculture) for the keeping of livestock on a noncommercial basis. The PC members think having it in multiple places makes it easier for people to find. Graham says that if residents see it in definitions, they assume it is allowed in all zoning classifications. PC members think Animal Unit should remain under definitions but instead of the full details, they want it to say "See Section 220-5-3.H."

Motion by King, seconded by Bellmore to table the public hearing until the March, 2024 PC Meeting. All ayes, motions passes.

Public Hearing - Text Amendment lowering the requirements between animal pen and wellhead to 50 feet and revising lot area required per Animal Unit in the Country Residential (CR) District There is no public comment. Graham says she spoke with the Health Department and they did not know where the previous 200 foot requirement came from. She says the State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and the United States' Centers for Disease Control (CDC) only require 50 feet between an animal pen and residential wellhead. Pachulski says the word "residences" should be changed to "dwellings" in the definition and the PC members agree. Pachulski points out and PC members agree that some animal unit requirements set by GAAMPS do not make sense. Pachulski gives the example that 1 horse is allowed on 3 acres in CR, but someone with 2.9 acres cannot even have 1 chicken.

Motion by King, seconded by Bellmore to approve the text amendment to lower the footage requirement between an animal pen and wellhead to 50 feet and revise the lot area required per animal unit in the Country Residential District, but change the word "residences" to "dwellings" in Section 220-5-3.H. and send it to the Board for first reading. Roll Call Vote: Haywood - Yes, King - Yes, Mayack - Yes, Bellmore - Yes, Pachulski -Yes. Motion passes.

Old Business:

Public Acts 233 and 234 Discussion

Graham sent the PC members a link to a webinar and shares that there will be a meeting about the upcoming changes to large scale wind and solar energy permitting hosted by the Barry County Commissioners on Tuesday, February 13 at the Hastings Performing Arts Center. She says the change becomes effective in November, 2024.

PC members do not think there is a reason to make an ordinance for RCT when the state plans to regulate it themselves.

Open Comments: None

Adjournment:

Motion by King, seconded by Bellmore to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 pm. Submitted by Nickie Haight, Recording Secretary