

Ligonier Township Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2022

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Barb Nalle called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Sheila Grimm. Present were Barb Nalle, Sheila Grimm, James Darr, Daniel Weimer, Michael McCalpin. Also present were Township Manager Michael Strelac and Solicitor Dan Hudock. Susan McBroom arrived after the meeting had started

Review of Meeting Minutes

Correction to minutes, change to “recommend to Supervisors” from “send to supervisors for approval.” Sheila Grimm made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by James Darr. Motion carried.

Public Comment - None

Old Business –

“Retreat Center” definition:

Discussion about existing things that are already similar to “retreat centers” such as the Ligonier Camp and Conference Center. Discussion about the legislative process. Karen Plaven presented to the Commission. She represents the “Pittsburgh retreat,” which has no other facilities. Not affiliated with a church, non-denominational. Vance McDonald was to use the property as a spiritual retreat, mostly for clergy. One large house, two smaller homes. Start small, but with the property and beds to expand. Probably, may also be sewage issues to overcome. Very beginning phases, property is under agreement, but not yet closed. It could fit under existing definitions of allowable uses for A Agriculture. Questions about details of use, such as dining halls (already exists, with up to 20 in dining hall), number of visitors (20-50), where the visitors would come from (to be determined). Existing property is new, beautiful, and should be up to date on septic for current use. No action taken.

Advertising sign language update(s).

Chair Nalle thinks we should have a workshop, where the Commission goes over line by line. Discussion about totally eliminating lighting from signs. Eliminate quirky whereas about Route 30. Cannot de facto exclusionary zone, restrictions must be reasonable. Potential duplication Commission should clear up. Workshop should be scheduled, include entirety of Commission, Solicitor Hudock, Scott Gongaware, and Zoning Officer Hogan. Late afternoon, perhaps starting between 3pm and 5pm. Workshop to touch on other issues in the code, such as billboards, marijuana dispensaries, tiny houses, any other issues. If anyone else thinks of anything, contact the Township Manager to add to the list.

New Business

Other deficiencies within Zoning Code. No discussion, already discussed under the Advertising Sign discussion.

Correspondence –none

General Concerns/Comments

Something that came up in the comprehensive plan is an issue again - broadband. Both speed (broadband) and internet (including old dial up).

Adjourn

Susan McBroom made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sheila Grimm. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.