

Minutes: Russell Township Board of Zoning Appeals  
Russell Town Hall  
April 14, 2008

Present: Steve Gokorsch, Chairman  
Fred Cuffari  
Matthew Galemmo  
Edith Lerner, Ph.D.  
Diana Steffen, Secretary

William Downing was absent. Also in attendance: Ric Machnics, Zoning Inspector.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and moved Election of Officers and approval of minutes to after Laurel School on the agenda. The Secretary confirmed that she sent a Sunshine Notice to five newspapers and posted it at the Administration Building. The Sunshine Notice rescheduled the March 24<sup>th</sup> regular meeting to tonight due to lack of quorum and no new business at that time.

**LAUREL SCHOOL Conditional Use #380  
Annual Update of Environmental Management Plan**

Mary Ann Pellerano and Timerra Jung were present for Laurel School, and Kathy Jankowski of Knight & Stolar, Inc. was in attendance to speak on their behalf.

Ms. Jankowski had submitted the annual update of Laurel School's Environmental Management Plan on March 14, 2008. Rachel Webb of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners reviewed it on behalf of the Township, corresponding with Ms. Jankowski regarding some minor issues. On April 10, 2008, Ms. Webb submitted a letter to the Board of Zoning Appeals to say that her recommendations and questions have been addressed, that the review is complete and the update is satisfactory.

Ms. Jankowski stated Laurel School has had another good year with the site. They continue to monitor invasive species and work with the Chagrin River Watershed Partners regarding any issues. The C.R.W.P. recommended white amur fish to deal with algae in ponds in order to reduce chemical use. They also used less fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides due to drought conditions. They need to have someone focused on pond testing during the growing season in order to do this on time.

Ms. Jankowski said the school is looking at options to bring city water to the site due to concerns about depleting the aquifer. If there is to be a big crowd they bring in water anyway. They hope to have a water line within the next year. Ms. Pellerano said there is a water line at County Line Road and Fairmount Road and the school is asking for a variance to tie into that line. Mr. Machnics said the water line goes south on County Line Road and there is also a line on State Route 87; the City of Cleveland wants them to be joined to make a loop before it will allow a tie-in.

Mr. Gokorsch asked about bacteria in the water. Ms. Pellerano said there is a holding tank that has occasionally tested positive and has been treated each time and then tested negative. On the last occasion the staff cleaned it out and scrubbed the side walls, and it tested negative for bacteria afterwards.

Mr. Machnics said he had no comments on the plan update.

*Mr. Cuffari made the motion to accept Laurel School's Environmental Management Plan dated March 14, 2008, reviewed by the Chagrin River Watershed Partners on April 8, 2008, and approved by them on April 10, 2008. Dr. Lerner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – *Dr. Lerner moved to open nominations for Chairman for 2008, Mr. Cuffari seconded.*

*Mr. Cuffari nominated Mr. Gokorsch to serve another year as Chairman of the B.Z.A., Dr. Lerner seconded.*

*There being no other nominations for Chairman, Mr. Cuffari moved to close nominations for Chairman, Dr. Lerner seconded.*

*Upon roll call vote to re-elect Mr. Gokorsch as Chairman for 2008, the vote was Mr. Cuffari – yes, Mr. Galemmo – yes, Dr. Lerner – yes, Mr. Gokorsch – yes, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Gokorsch was re-elected Chairman for 2008.

*Mr. Cuffari moved to open nominations for Vice-Chairman for 2008, Dr. Lerner seconded.*

*Dr. Lerner nominated Mr. Cuffari for Vice-Chairman, Mr. Gokorsch seconded.*

*There being no other nominations for Vice-Chairman, Mr. Galemmo moved to close nominations for Vice-Chairman, Mr. Gokorsch seconded.*

*Upon roll call vote to re-elect Mr. Cuffari as Vice-Chairman for 2008, the vote was Mr. Cuffari – yes, Mr. Galemmo – yes, Dr. Lerner – yes, Mr. Gokorsch – yes, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Cuffari was re-elected Vice-Chairman for 2008.

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 26, 2007** – *Mr. Cuffari made the motion to approve the minutes of November 26, 2007, as submitted, Dr. Lerner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

