

Minutes: Russell Township Zoning Commission  
Russell Town Hall  
March 16, 2009

Present: Richard E. Snyder, Chairman  
Bruce Murphy  
Wendy Bruzas  
Ben Kotowski  
Diana Steffen, Secretary

Donna Weiss Carson was absent with apologies.

Also in attendance: Ric Machnics, Zoning Inspector and Jim Dickinson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2009** – *Mr. Murphy made the motion to accept the minutes, Ms. Bruzas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

**ZONING COMMISSION PROCEDURES** – The Chairman provided an overview of procedures used by the Commission. Before initiating an amendment he tries to be sure there is consensus amongst all members, and if one person has a concern then they may spend several meetings discussing the concern. He asked members to voice their thoughts if they do not agree with the rest of the Commission during discussion of a topic, and if they do not understand the terminology used they should ask for an explanation. Mr. Snyder said that at the end of discussion of each topic he will summarize the action items and who is responsible for them so it is clear for the next meeting. When the Commission has a new topic to work on as a result of a zoning workshop, he will either ask for a volunteer or will assign someone to work on it. In some cases this will be a long-term project and the member will ask for the topic to be on the agenda once he/she has something to report.

**BALANCED GROWTH PROGRAM** – The Chairman delayed discussion while awaiting the arrival of Trustee Kristina Port.

**FOOD SERVICE/PERMITTED USES IN C-S ZONE** – Referring to the draft that was revised after the last meeting, Mr. Snyder asked if there are any extra items that could be included under the general welfare provision. Mr. Murphy suggested they may be able to regulate the style of restaurants if there is a rational basis, and he will look into this.

Mr. Kotowski reported on his research into "noise". He said a number of townships have repealed their noise regulations since they proved unenforceable. He found that extensive training is required and very explicit procedures written into the zoning resolution. Mostly it is villages that have noise ordinances. He planned to review a recent ordinance passed by the Village of Chagrin Falls, which limits the hours for

