

Minutes: Russell Township Zoning Commission
Russell Fire-Rescue Station
June 27, 2012

Present: Richard E. Snyder, Chairman
Bruce Murphy
Ben Kotowski
Donna Weiss Carson
Tom Warren
Diana Steffen, Secretary

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2012 – *Mr. Murphy moved to accept the minutes as presented, Ms. Weiss Carson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

The Chairman stated he wished to combine the next two agenda topics relating to the Land Use Guide Plan update.

LAND USE GUIDE PLAN UPDATE - Mr. Snyder asked the Commission members if they had anything they wished to report on their topics.

Regional Relationships – Ms. Weiss Carson said she gave copies of the current Guide Plan to N.O.A.C.A. and to The Chagrin River Watershed Partners, and explained to them that it is to be revised. Each of the agencies will submit an update of changes that have taken place since 1995.

Demographic Trends and Projections – Mr. Kotowski said he will utilize the database Mr. Murphy has compiled from the County Auditor's website to identify buildable lots in order to determine the number of houses that could be built in the Township until build-out is reached. Mrs. Steffen will assist him using maps in the Zoning Office.

Land Use Patterns – Mr. Murphy said he found the Auditor's website contains a database that he was able to filter and download. Once it is in a usable form he would like to make it available to share with the Commission, with each member having the opportunity to add pertinent information. There are 3033 parcels in the Township. He said he felt that adding the zoning classification to each parcel would be very helpful. Mrs. Steffen and Ms. Weiss Carson offered to help with this task. Mr. Kotowski offered to set up a Google Doc file that everyone could access. A new "existing land use" map will need to be created. There are land use maps from 1975 and 1995. Ms. Weiss Carson suggested adding all the parcels in the 208 Plan to the database. Mrs. Steffen said she can do this.

Mr. Murphy has asked C.R.W.P. for information on conservation easements, riparian setbacks and acreage. Mrs. Steffen said she has a list of conservation easements that she can pass along to Mr. Murphy. Ms. Weiss Carson recommended including information on riparian setbacks under Regional Relationships.

Environmental Infrastructure – Mr. Warren discussed names of possible speakers for the September environmental program. He would like the panel to have a balance that includes a representative from an environmental group, a representative of the oil and gas industry with fracking knowledge, and a scientist with expertise in hydrology and geology. He has spoken to Greg Studen who is also willing to be on the panel. Mr. Warren will contact some of the people mentioned with the goal of having four speakers on the panel.

Mr. Warren said he would like to ask Dr. Eckstein to be on the panel since doing so would connect the program to the Guide Plan update. Mr. Snyder noted that Dr. Eckstein has made a proposal regarding the study of the vulnerability of the aquifer, but the cost is much higher than expected. Dr. Eckstein

