

Minutes: Russell Township Zoning Commission
Russell Town Hall
October 20, 2008

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

Also in attendance: Ric Machnics, Zoning Inspector.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2008 – Mr. Murphy made the motion to accept the minutes as presented, Ms. Bruzas seconded and the motion passed unanimously by 3-0. Mr. Kotowski and Ms. Weiss Carson abstained due to their absence from that meeting.

BALANCED GROWTH PROGRAM - Mr. Snyder explained that the Chagrin River Watershed Partners asked today to be added to the agenda in order that they could give a presentation on the Balanced Growth Program. Ms. Rachel Webb was in attendance and explained the program using a PowerPoint presentation. She said she was here in place of C.R.W.P. Director Amy Holtshouse Brennan, who had a conflict tonight. She said the C.R.W.P. is doing this work for its members as a Pilot Project under the Ohio Balanced Growth Program. That program was started by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission (O.L.E.C.) and is coordinated with a number of State departments. C.R.W.P. has identified Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) and Priority Development Areas (PDAs) in Russell Township, and has developed a map using many criteria to do this. She gave copies of the map to the Commission. The O.L.E.C. is working to develop incentives to implement these. According to Ms. Webb, if Russell Township supports this program it will have a number of benefits, including improved planning and zoning and improved Phase II compliance. She also noted that the Township would gain extra points when being considered for grants. Ms. Webb handed out a document that explained in detail PCAs and PDAs, and agreed to ask Amy Brennan to email the Commission all the layers used to compile the map.

Ms. Webb explained that Ms. Brennan gave a presentation to the Board of Trustees the previous week and asked for its endorsement in the form of a resolution. Chairman Jim Dickinson suggested that C.R.W.P. explain the program to the Commission, and the Trustees would ask the Commission for its recommendation before making a resolution. Ms. Webb said that the Township needs to be comfortable with the map and then if the Trustees make a resolution their support will be incorporated into the larger Balanced Growth Program of the whole community within the Chagrin River watershed. For full endorsement by the State the C.R.W.P. needs 75% of the land area, population and communities to support the program. Russell has 2% of the population and 4% of the land area. The target date for this is the end of 2008.

