

Minutes: Russell Township Zoning Commission
Russell Fire-Rescue Station
November 28, 2012

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

Tom Warren was absent with apologies.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 24, 2012 – *Mr. Murphy moved to accept the minutes as presented, Mr. Kotowski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

2013 MEETING SCHEDULE – Mrs. Steffen presented a draft schedule for the third Wednesday of each month except for November and December which conflict with holidays. The Commission agreed to combine those two months and hold one meeting only on December 11th. The 2013 meeting schedule was approved.

GUIDE PLAN – PROGRESS – Survey: Mr. Snyder said he had not heard from Cleveland State University regarding the total number of questionnaires returned to date. He explained that the problem of notifying post office box holders about the survey was solved when he wrote a letter to them which Novelty Post Office put in 130 residential post office boxes. Mrs. Steffen said 14 residents have called asking for questionnaires to be mailed to their post office boxes since they do not receive mail at their homes. She has passed the information on to C.S.U.

Cloud computing – Mr. Kotowski said he has emailed the Commission a hyperlink through Dropbox that links to a folder in the Cloud. Members can post documents for everyone to access. If anyone wants to change a document they will need to download it, make the change and then upload it. When the Guide Plan is being written the Commission should use Google Docs instead which will allow changes to be made to documents without the necessity of downloading them first, plus it can track those changes.

AMBIENT GROUNDWATER MONITORING – Mr. Snyder said he did some research and found www.fracktrack.org, a community-generated website from Pennsylvania that is designed to provide information and data on drilling companies, oil/gas well permits, violations, production of wells, and impact fees paid to local communities. There is also a tool to look at job creation. In Pennsylvania drilling companies must test all water wells within 1000 feet prior to drilling, and this information is available on the website but without a precise location of the water wells. Homeowners are being asked to provide GPS coordinates of their water wells. Mr. Snyder spoke to Amy Brennan of The Chagrin River Watershed Partners, who felt a similar site would be an opportunity for Ohio, and she will discuss the idea with her contacts at the state level. The website owners have offered their tools to anyone who wants to set up another site. Mr. Snyder said that Ohio S.B. 315 has passed and requires drillers to test water wells within 1500 feet in rural areas in Ohio. Ms. Brennan will find out if the data will be public so it could be put on a website.

Action Item: Mr. Snyder will ask C.R.W.P. about current requirements for testing water wells in Ohio, and pass the information on to Mr. Murphy for further research. Ms. Weiss Carson will call the Geauga County Health Department to ask if there is data publicly available from its water well testing program.

Mr. Murphy suggested that, since Dr. Eckstein had proposed testing 30 water wells in Russell, if the testing was inexpensive the Commission could find 30 homeowners willing to have their wells tested and then share the data with the Commission.

