

Minutes: Russell Township Zoning Commission
Russell Town Hall
January 8, 2007

Present: Richard E. Snyder, Chairman
Bruce Murphy
Eileen Rogers
Diana Steffen, Secretary

Donna Weiss Carson was absent with apologies.

Also in attendance: Jim Dickinson, Trustee.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. He noted with regret that Richard Cusick resigned in December.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – *Mr. Murphy made the motion to open nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2007, Mrs. Rogers seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Murphy moved to re-elect Richard Snyder as Chairman of the Zoning Commission for 2007, Mrs. Rogers seconded.

Mr. Snyder moved to elect Bruce Murphy as Vice-Chairman of the Zoning Commission for 2007, Mrs. Rogers seconded.

Mr. Murphy made the motion to close the floor to nominations, Mrs. Rogers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

On the motion to re-elect Mr. Snyder Chairman, the roll call vote was Mr. Murphy – yes, Mrs. Rogers – yes, Mr. Snyder – yes, and the motion passed unanimously.

On the motion to elect Mr. Murphy Vice-Chairman, the roll call vote was Mr. Murphy – yes, Mrs. Rogers – yes, Mr. Snyder – yes, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Snyder was re-elected Chairman for 2007 and Mr. Murphy was elected Vice-Chairman for 2007.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2006 – *Mrs. Rogers made the motion to accept the minutes as submitted, Mr. Murphy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

SECTION 4.13 WATER MANAGEMENT & SEDIMENT CONTROL – Mr. Snyder said that although the Prosecutor's Office has not yet approved the proposed amendment, he suggested the Commission initiate it and consider any comments from legal counsel during the public hearing process.

Mr. Murphy made the motion that an amendment to the Russell Township Zoning Resolution, identified as number 2007-1, consisting of five pages, marked Exhibit A and attached hereto and incorporated herein as though fully rewritten, be hereby initiated by the Russell Township Zoning Commission this 8th day of January, 2007. Mrs. Rogers seconded and upon roll call the vote was Mr. Murphy – yes, Mrs. Rogers – yes, Mr. Snyder – yes, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Murphy made the motion that the Russell Township Zoning Commission conduct a public hearing on the proposed amendment, identified as number 2007-1, to the Russell Township Zoning Resolution as attached hereto on the 12th day of February, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Russell Town Hall. Mrs. Rogers seconded and upon roll call the vote was Mr. Murphy – yes, Mrs. Rogers – yes, Mr. Snyder – yes, and the motion passed unanimously.

SECTION 8.4 ZONING COMMISSION AND 9.5 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

– MEETINGS – Mr. Snyder explained that the Board of Zoning Appeals requested a change regarding Section 9.5 Meetings. The language does not actually apply to current board procedure. It allows the board to dispense with regular meetings in July and August, which was when people historically took vacations. Nowadays the summer is often when the board is busiest with appeals, and board members prefer to cancel meetings when there is no business to conduct. The new language suggested by the B.Z.A. Chairman will allow the board to cancel a regular monthly meeting if there are no new appeals or business.

Mr. Snyder also said that the wording for the Zoning Commission is similar, and he asked if the Commission would like to change it at the same time. He suggested new language as follows: "The Commission shall meet in regular session each month. The Commission may choose to cancel a regular monthly meeting if it is deemed by the Commission that no new amendments or other business warrant that meeting." He noted that the Commission may have a light schedule in 2007, and could then cancel meetings, but if a resident wished to apply for an amendment in the summer, they can still do so and the Commission would be available.

Mrs. Rogers agreed with the proposed amendment for both boards, and mentioned that the summer is often when the most issues arise. Mr. Murphy also agreed.

Mr. Murphy made the motion that an amendment to the Russell Township Zoning Resolution, identified as number 2007-2, consisting of one page, marked Exhibit A and attached hereto and incorporated herein as though fully rewritten, be hereby initiated by the Russell Township Zoning Commission this 8th day of January, 2007. Mrs. Rogers seconded and upon roll call the vote was Mr. Murphy – yes, Mrs. Rogers – yes, Mr. Snyder – yes, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Murphy made the motion that the Russell Township Zoning Commission conduct a public hearing on the proposed amendment, identified as number 2007-2, to the Russell Township Zoning Resolution as attached hereto on the 12th day of February, 2007, at

