

Athens Township Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Athens Township Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM on April 15, 2021, and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Planning Commissioners Present

Dave Beckstrom, Marlys Balfany, Dean Thompson, Dan Woodfill, Jason Ross, Jack Cole, Mike Jungbauer, Township Clerk Diane Carpenter

Guests Present

One resident attended.

Approval of Minutes

M/S Jack Cole/Jason Ross to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2021 and March 18, 2021 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Forum

None.

Public Hearing

-Ericka Nelson has applied for an IUP for a craft boutique at 27554 Ulysses Dr NE. All work will be done in an existing building used as a sales office for Rudolph's Tree Farm. Articles sold will be from local artisans. Mike had prepared a sample resolution for P&Z members to view. It was noted that Kari Larson will need to sign for the IUP as the resident land owner. A discussion was held on how this business fits into our current ordinance for home

business. Also discussed were parking issues, hours of operation, and the possibility of having food trucks on the premises when the boutique is open for business.

M/S Jason Ross/Jack Cole to recommend approval of the IUP to the board with changes to be noted on the resolution prepared by Mike. Motion passed unanimously.

-M&K Investments LLC applied for a CUP to expand their existing cabinet business at 26516 Xylite St NE in Isanti. They do business as Knapp Classic Cabinetry. Because of the longevity of the business, there is no existing permit at this time. Several options were discussed regarding text amendments to grandfather in these types of businesses already existing in the township, IUP versus CUP, and the size of the desired expansion. Mike has conferred with Peter Tiede on the issue. The Planning Commission decided that the best course of action would be to hold another public hearing to change the ordinance with a text amendment and that they should proceed with an application to request the ordinance change. Also, the general consensus is that the permit should be an IUP instead of a CUP so that if the business or land changes hands, the use can be reviewed at that time.

New Business

-Mike has obtained maps of the township. He shared possible areas for commercial zoning with board members.

Old Business

None.

Miscellaneous

None

Adjournment

M/S Marlys Balfany/Dan Woodfill to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Diane Carpenter