

**Athens Township Planning Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 19, 2022**

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the Athens Township Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM on May 19, 2022, and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Planning Commissioners Present**

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

**Guests Present**

Chris Olson, Todd Christensen

**Approval of Minutes**

M/S Jason Ross/Jack Cole to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Open Forum**

None.

**Public Hearing**

None.

**New Business**

Mike presented a preliminary plat application from Kim Olsen for the Lockwood trust property. It consists of 10 proposed lots. There are 15 building rights on that tract of land, and they would be using 10. There will be a surveyor's report available for next month's meeting.

The lime on the property can be covered, but the location must be surveyed and noted, and a house or septic system cannot be placed over the lime.

There is a landlocked parcel behind the lots being sold. The land owner was offered land for sale for an easement and he declined the offer.

M/S Dean Thompson/Jason Ross to accept the sketch plan of the plat. Motion passed unanimously.

A discussion was held regarding fences in the township encroaching on the road Right of Way. Mike explained the definition of ROW, explaining that if the road moves due to grading, weather, etc. over the years, the ROW remains the same. Also, all residents must be treated the same regarding ROW issues. No exceptions can be made due to state law. We are having a problem with Ben Smith on Polk. He claims that we do not own the ROW. The township is not responsible to prove that we are correct about the location of the ROW, he needs to prove if we are incorrect. The ROW can be adjusted by a new survey and property returned to landowners, if the township would choose this option. The ROW is not required to be 66 feet. M/S Jason Ross/Jack Cole to recommend a survey of the Ben Smith property to determine the ROW. Motion passed unanimously. Jason will get a quote. They decided it would be cheaper in the long run than the township running up large legal bills.

A discussion was held regarding Isanti county's new ordinance for Accessory Dwelling Units. There was a discussion regarding the size of the ADU's, acreage needed to put up such a structure, etc. Several suggestions were made for changes to such an ordinance for Athens, that would be more restrictive. P&Z members were

requested to look over the Isanti Ordinance provided by Mike before the next meeting.

**Old Business**

None was discussed

**Adjournment**

M/S Marlys Balfany/Dean Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Diane Carpenter