

Athens Township Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Athens Township Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM on September 16, 2021, and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Planning Commissioners Present

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

Guests Present

Five residents attended.

Approval of Minutes

M/S Jack Cole/Dan Woodfill to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Forum

None.

Public Hearing

Public hearing 21-05 for Nicholas Anderson/Harold's Trucking. He is requesting an IUP for a Home business in an accessory building. A letter was sent to neighbors advising them of this public hearing. Kim Diers attended and said that there have never been any problems with the activity on the property which has been happening since 2003.

-Concerns included more equipment stored there than at other locations, and setting a precedent for others. Mike suggested

setting a limit like 10 percent of the total acreage or 1/2 acre max for residential/ag property.

-The board was polled and it was decided that the ordinance needs to be changed to accommodate this type of business. (Ex. #2 states only relatives living on the property.)

We have until 11/23/21 for the first sixty days. Nick will apply for an ordinance amendment. The ordinance will be amended and then we will reconsider the application for the IUP.

M/S Marlys Balfany/Jack Cole to table the decision on the IUP until the ordinance is changed. Motion passed unanimously.

-County zoning issue/Athens zoning - the county attorney is against the split.

New Business

-A discussion was held about the billboard sign ordinance and the zoning on 65 being related. Mike pointed out suggestions and areas for possible rezoning reconsideration. Future frontage roads were also discussed.

-Mike brought up for consideration land across 56 near the lake. The landowner is looking to sell the property and has discussed the possibility of giving some park land near the lake to the township in exchange for the township putting in a road so that houses can be built on the remaining acreage. No one on the park board was against the idea so Mike will be researching it further.

-Mike gave some history of Leon Ohman, who is being considered as a backup for Mike with P&Z. It would need to be negotiated whether we would pay him per inspection or by the hour. Mike will invite Leon to the special board meeting on Monday.

Old Business

Rum River Wild & Scenic Ordinance update. Waiting on Isanti County.

Adjournment

M/S Marlys Balfany/Jack Cole to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.
Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Diane Carpenter