

Keene Township Planning Commission

Planning Commission Special Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Denny Briggs called the meeting to order at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Denny Briggs, Ray Krieger, Corey Wojcik, Matt Stahlin, Mike Gasper, Nancy Solomon
Absent - Dan Briggs

There were approximately 35 members of the community present along with Jeanne Vandersloot and a representative from Invenergy.

Public comments made regarding topics not on the agenda. It was mentioned that the survey draft was going to be reviewed at this meeting but was delayed. It should be ready for review at the PC December's meeting.

Corey motioned to approve the last meeting minutes and Mike Gasper seconded. Motion approved.

New Business:

Review Cannonsburg Sand & Gravel Renewal Update

It was agreed to allow two more semi-trailers for storage as requested by owner, Tom Skipper. It was also agreed that the list of equipment is no longer needed by Jeanne. Motion was made by Corey to renew the special land use for the mineral extraction operation for another five years and remove the detailed equipment list and send this recommendation to the Township Board. Motion seconded by Mike Gasper. Motion passed.

Old business:

Public Hearing regarding Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance.

Explanation given by Denny.

After some discussion and public questions, motion by Corey to recommend to the Township Board for adoption. Nancy Solomon seconded. Motion passed.

Wind Energy Ordinance discussed. Everyone read through the current wind ordinance and there were some areas that could be amended. There was another townships ordinance handed out at the last meeting to read through. Nancy mentioned that the Almer Township Wind Ordinance was detailed and appeared to cover all topics. She also mentioned that Douglass Township also had a good ordinance in place. She agreed to send a link for the Douglass Township Ordinance to the PC. The Almer Ordinance was also mentioned by Holli Melton who asked to adopt it for Keene. This ordinance is for a different type of area than here. It was agreed that more research is needed. Nancy stated that a chart could be created to show the differences between townships in our area and some ordinances from communities that have wind energy systems already and has agreed to create a comparison chart which should be ready by the next PC meeting in December. Examples of the different townships are: Almer, Douglass, Gratiot, etc. Townships.

Keene Supervisor, Bob Schafer, gave copies of a letter dated 4-5-23 that he sent to our previous Supervisor Robert and Board member Brett before the public hearing on the solar amendments. Included with the letter was a draft copy of Keene's Solar Ordinance showing edits and new language suggestions. Denny indicated everyone would read it and save it until after the Nov. 7 vote.

Denny mentioned concerns about renewable energy in the State Legislature and House Bills HB5120, HB5121, HB5122, HB5123. He suggested everyone read the bills as they pertain to large scale wind and solar projects where local review and control may be removed.

Motion made by Corey to adjourn at 8:14 and seconded by Mike Gasper. Motion passed.