

Birch Run Township Planning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes July 21, 2008

Chair Bill Nelson opened the regular meeting of the Birch Run Township Planning Commission at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present for the Commission were Secretary Jerry Cook, and Commissioners Dennis Bronner, Bob Scharrer and Wyn Wilson. Absent were Vice Chair Bill Hoffman and Commissioner Jeff Putnam. A quorum was present. Also present was Building and Zoning Administrator Mike Setzer. Four members of the public were present.

Moved by Wilson, **supported** by Scharrer, to excuse the absent members.

Yeas: Bronner, Cook, Wilson, Scharrer, Nelson

Nays: none

Motion carried.

Moved by Bronner, **supported** by Cook, to approve the Minutes of the June 16, 2008, as presented.

Yeas: Cook, Bronner, Wilson, Nelson

Abstain: Scharrer

Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARING

The Chair opened the Public hearing, citing the public notice as published in the July 2, 2008 edition of the *Birch Run/Bridgeport Herald*. Mr. George Sefranek is requesting a Special Use Permit to build an artificial pond on parcel # 05-10-6-04-3001-001, located at 9386 Lange Road.

Moved by Wilson, **supported** by Scharrer, to grant Final Site Plan Approval for a Special Use Permit to build an artificial pond on parcel # 05-10-6-04-3001-001, with the following conditions to be met prior to the issuance of a permit:

1. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) must be contacted and a letter or permit from MDEQ be provided to the Township.
2. Pursuant to the Birch Run Township Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 14, Section 15, B-9, a letter signed by all property owners, must be submitted to the Township.

Yeas: Wilson, Scharrer, Bronner, Cook, Nelson

Nays: none

Motion carried

Mr. Wilson noted for the record that the current ordinance does not address “escape ramp” grading of at least one bank of an artificial pond. He suggests the Commission take up this issue in the future.

OLD BUSINESS: None heard

REPORTS: None heard

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Bronner, **supported** by Wilson, to set a Public Hearing for amendments to the Birch Run Township Zoning Ordinance to bring the ordinance into compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act for September 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Yeas: Bronner, Cook, Wilson, Scharrer, Nelson

Nays: none

Motion carried

OTHER

Mr. Setzer asked for clarification from the Commission regarding the cleaning of artificial ponds. He is concerned that in the process, the size of the pond can be changed. The consensus of the Commission was that if no significant change is made to the size of the pond, no regulation is necessary.

The Commission directed Mr. Setzer to look into creating a document for prospective developers, to explain in layman’s terms the steps necessary to obtain Site Plan Approval. Mr. Setzer will work with Township staff on this project.

The Commission will discuss wind turbines and outdoor wood burners under OLD BUSINESS at its next meeting.

Moved by Cook, **supported** by Bronner, to adjourn at 10:13 p.m.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted By,



Kenneth R. MacLeod
Recording Secretary

Approved at the meeting held 10/20/08,

Jerry Cook
Secretary

