

MINUTES

Pursuant to open meeting notice, the Hay Creek Planning Commission met on August 8, 2012, 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall.

Members present: Keith Fossen, Scott Halverson, Lorrie Sonnek, and David Tincher.

Keith Fossen, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Motion: Lorrie Sonnek made a motion to accept the minutes (with corrections for spelling) from the July 11, 2012, meeting. David Tincher seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business: Lorrie Sonnek inquired about consulting with Jotsie Johnson, and others knowledgeable of Hay Creek Township, to help catalog the scenic attributes of the township. It was considered a good idea and that Rick Peterson perhaps could help.

Keith Fossen mentioned that our planning committee was asked by the town board to address setbacks and hours of operation for proposed silica sand mines. Also, that he was going to ask an attorney from the Minnesota Township Association to be present at our September 12 meeting to discuss with us how to develop a comprehensive plan. We had some discussion on the definitions of “comprehensive” and “land use” plans and the possibility of updating our existing land use plan into a comprehensive plan. It was felt an attorney could help explain the definitions and possible procedures to accomplish our goals.

There was discussion about asking our town board for a township moratorium on silica sand mining.

Motion: Lorrie Sonnek made a motion that the planning commission recommend that the town board supervisors pass a parallel moratorium (on silica sand mining) to the county’s moratorium, assuming that the county passes a moratorium.

Discussion was had on how much time we needed to finish our work. It was felt we should try to finish in six months.

The motion passed. (Keith Fossen, Scott Halverson and Lorrie Sonnek voted aye; and, David Tincher voted nay.)

New Business: Next, the approach and chronology of updating our land use plan into a comprehensive plan was discussed. David Tincher brought up the possibility of hiring a private consultant to help do a land use plan. Keith Fossen suggested getting a copy of Florence Township’s comprehensive plan and also hiring Troy Gilchrest as a legal adviser for this process and, also, how to address the county’s current bluff ordinance to make it tighter. David Tincher felt there may be a lot of helpful information from the U of M’s Center for Rural Design and possible tie-ins with the Southern Minnesota Initiative. The Wells Creek Watershed was also mentioned as a source for some useful information, especially contacting Beth Knutson.

Keith Fossen will ask for authorized for each of us to spend up to \$250 for efforts on gathering or producing reports that we thought were needed.

Lorrie Sonnek mentioned that she and Amy Nelson were working on using GIS to help us prepare materials. The possibility of using the county’s GIS coordinator was discussed, and it

was felt, if necessary, County Commissioner Jim Bryant may be able to help us procure such assistance.

Lorrie Sonnek suggested bringing the demographic information she has compiled on the township to include in working up our comprehensive plan.

Scott Halverson volunteered to copy and catalogue our minutes for the last year, to find (with David Tincher's help) the motion made at the annual meeting to authorize the township to address silica sand mining, and to meet with Brian Peterson to find out what they (the City of Red Wing) have done in terms of their comprehensive plan and recommended ordinance changes.

Keith Fossen discussed the need to coordinate our work with Featherstone, Goodhue, Florence and Wacouta Townships. The Land Stewardship Project meeting in Frontenac on August 23rd was also mentioned.

David Tincher volunteered to bring in the current county bluff ordinance to make recommendations to expand upon it for Hay Creek Township. David also volunteered to study the bluff ordinance to make recommendations concerning conspicuous houses built along the scenic bluff line.

Keith Fossen informed us that planning commission members can post documents and information on the township's website in a folder that has a password. With a password, the general public would not have access to change our working documents.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 p.m.