

These are the minutes of the August 16, 2007 Planning Commission meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Shields.

Present: Myers, Parmelee, Heasley, Shields, Oosterink and Blakeslee

Absent: Coffey

Myers made a motion to approve the July 12, 2007 minutes are presented, Oosterink seconded, motion carried.

DeBoer sand mine, tabled at the July 12, 2007 meeting now taken off the table.

Bob Jones informed the PC that a very small quantity of clay came into the mine, a majority of which came from land in which they were putting in a septic tank system.

After further discussion, Heasley made a motion to allow the sand mine to continue to the next annual review, Blakeslee seconded, motion carried.

Salem Development Group sand mine, tabled at the July 12, 2007 meeting now taken off the table.

Bob Jones updated the PC: the applicant did major grading, the slopes are redone on the stock pile channeled to the front & back side of the pile, the grass/weeds were mowed, washouts were filled in.

Dar VanderArk, representing the applicant, indicated they hope to have all the fencing in and stuff cleaned up in the next couple weeks. They will seed the big hill and are working on how to handle the washouts.

Parmelee has a safety concern of the open area. There is a big hole with large slopes and someone may get hurt.

After further discussion, Heasley made a motion to allow the sand mine to continue to the next annual review with the condition that the fence be placed by September 6, 2007 with Bob Jones' approval, Myers seconded, motion carried.

Parmelee made a motion to open the public hearing for the Smith sand mine review, Oosterink seconded, motion carried.

Bob Jones gave an update on this. The sand mine is inactive, not maintained, numerous washouts and his recommendation is to revoke the permit and close the mine.

Dan Smith apologized to the PC for not maintaining the mine. He is in agreement to close the sand mine; however would like to offer these alternative solutions:

- 1) Allow a 2 month grace period before reclamation and the bond money used. This will allow time for him to talk to contractors who may want the sand. There is approximately 30,000-50,000 yds. The property will be reclaimed better if that material is removed. It will provide some income for the Brenner family. If another contractor is interested, can they come and apply for a permit?
- 2) 1,000 yds of gravel is in there, he would like the gravel if the mine is closed.
- 3) Mercy with the \$12,000 bond. He would like to look for other possible options than using these funds immediately.

The PC was presented with copies of two letters from Greg Paffhouse representing the Brenner family. The family is in full support of closing the sand mine and restoring the land to farming.

Parmelee: If the Brenner family is not interested in the continuation of the mine, then close it. It can be closed this year yet with the bond money; however 50,000 yds. of sand can't come out this year yet.

Public comments:

Boyd Berens, owner to the South and farms the Brenner farm. Where farmland stops and the pit starts there is a big slope. Where will all that sand come from to fill in? What about dust control in closing the mine. Do land owners get some say on the final outcome and if it is acceptable? Also concern of the electric pole in the middle.

Bob Jones responded that certain land/slope requirements must be met. He will meet with the landowner and whoever farms it once reclamation starts.

Dorothy Paffhouse: the family wants it closed so it can be farmed.

Fred Koning, lives to the North. Concern of land level of pit to be same as the field. How is the road frontage going to look? The trees on the berm have died. His home value is going down due to the sand mine.

Dan Smith: he did talk to G.L. Energy about this pole, the cost at that time would be \$2500.

Shirley VanderKolk, concern of dust control. The fish in her pond died because of the dust, if this happens again she would like to be compensated.

Shields: the pole, liability for fish pond and possible alfalfa loss should be considered in the bid.

Myers: in favor of proceeding. If family was more open to alternatives then I'd be in favor.

Parmelee: history of this mine is open and close, open and close. The letters from the family want it closed, no interest in continuation. We should get bids to close the mine and let alternatives be heard.

Vicki: same as Parmelee, see what the bids come in at.

Oosterink: Need time for bids to come in, feels it should be closed.

Shields: the mine should be closed. No time left this fall and the safety hazards must be dealt with. The PC should get in the bids and listen to any alternative plan if available.

Parmelee made a motion to cease mining activity immediately and to authorize Bob Jones to get bids in for reclamation, and the PC will review potential other options at the next meeting, Myers seconded, motion carried.

That being said, the next regular meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2007. As this would not allow sufficient time to get all bids in, the next meeting will be moved to September 20, 2007.

Parmelee made a motion to close the public hearing, Blakeslee seconded, motion

carried.

Township Board update: Parmelee - Daryl Coffey has resigned from the PC. He may be interested in the ZBA opening. Discussion on the PC was centered on finding a replacement for Daryl with farming/ag background to keep the PC balanced. The following residents were recommended for consideration to the Township Board:

Boyd Berens

Scott VanderKolk

Dave Westrate

Jeff Lenhart

Earl will forward this information on to the Supervisor.

No further business, Parmelee made a motion to adjourn; Myers seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

Cris Heasley, Secretary

Salem Township Planning Commission