

Salem Township Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes, April 6, 2023

Salem Township Hall

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance – 7 pm

Roll Call of Members – Present – Striegle, Coupe, Pitsch, Oosterink, Berens, Meyers, Wagner. Absent – none.

Recognition of Visitors – none

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes – Motion by Coupe, second by Berens. Motion carried.

Comments from the Public – J Hulst gave information on Groundwater Study group- looking for volunteers. R Blain had questions on who is in charge of rules and regulations at Township Cemeteries especially limit on how many urns can be put in a single casket.

Approval of the Agenda for the Meeting – Motion by Pitsch, second by Wagner. Motion carried.

Inquiry of Conflict of Interest – none noted.

New Business

Public Hearing – Loew Sand Mine – Revocation - issues with operation – Opened at 7:08 pm. Overview by Jason (PCI), issues regarding gate, fencing, cobblestone entry/exit (mud on road), signage. Have had several previous mentions of issues. Mr. Loew wants project to end in order to farm the land – was to be a 3 – 4 year project but hit clay and had pandemic issues. Also had issues with mining company from the start, especially road. The fence on north side is in final place (only 1 more small hill to remove). Will take 3 – 4 months. Close to finish but permit expires on May 3, 2023.

Public comment – R Blain sees improvement in past few weeks and asked if only need a few months to finish, can PC extend permit for 6 more months?

Motion by Coupe, second by Striegle to close Public Hearing. Motion carried. 7:37 pm.

PC Discussion – Wagner asked what he would do going forward because permit is in his name? Loew said he could make sure gate is closed nightly and shovel road as needed. Pitsch had issue with security and visibility of fence and signage. Original conditions were reviewed:

Road Commission terms

Insurance Certificate

Bond

Fencing

Warning Signs

Hours of Operation (8-5, M – F)

Motion to revoke as of expiration on May 3, 2023 for failure to follow SUP Permit conditions by Coupe, second by Wagner. Roll call vote: Striegle – yes, Coupe - yes, Pitsch – yes, Wagner – yes, Meyers – yes, Berens – yes, Oosterink – yes. Motion carried. Can apply for new permit out next PC meeting if paperwork is in time for publication.

Old Business

Solar Energy – Further information received from Jim Storey (County Commissioner regarding effect on future ag. PC to study for next meeting.

Areas of concern – Master Plan – none

Correspondence received – 3 letters from neighbors regarding Sand mine issues. 1 approval of a private road (by right) from PCI.

Reports and Comments

Township Board – by Striegle – PCI blight update, Lake Monterey Dam inspection, fertilizer bid, breathing devices cost - \$148,000. Moth treatment at Township Hall (water, not aerial spray), 2 probationary firefighters hired.

PCI – issues and concerns – none

Master Plan – by Coupe – Williams and Works – surveyed what is important for land uses, discussion on mineral resources. Concern – more people, impact on safety of septic and water systems. Next meeting 4/13.

Other/Roundtable – none – Next meeting May 4, 2023

Adjournment – Motion by Berens, second by Meyers. Motion carried. 8:40 pm.