

Minutes  
Monday, February 12, 2024  
Bridgeton Planning Commission

7:00 PM Open with Pledge of Allegiance- Meeting called to order by J. Howes at 7:00 PM

Roll call: McClintock(present), Dore(present), Howes(present), Clough(present)  
Hawkey(present)

Minutes: K. Clough made a motion to accept the minutes for the 1-8-24 Planning Commission meeting with the correction of the spelling of Howes and Schuiteman. D. Hawkey 2nd. Motion carried with unanimous support

Public Comment on agenda items: (Please limit comments to 3 minutes.) Members of the public had questions regarding the details and nature of the Special Land Use request by Ryzebol Properties LLC for a Farm Market to be run by Steve and Julie Leestma who operate Hemlock Grove Farms in Newaygo. Chairperson Howes offered a brief outline of the request and asked for a hold on questions until we reached the new business portion of the agenda. No other comments on the agenda items.

Secretary report/communications: Secretary McClintock did not have any communications to share.

Reports:

Township Board: B. Dore reported that the Board of Review for 2024 was approved, snowblowing for sidewalks at the township hall were billed separately from parklot plowing, approval for funds to feed election inspectors during upcoming elections was approved, approved accounting software, no definite date for Spring Clean Up township date has been determined, brining for roads was approved, Newaygo County Road Commission has plans to pave two roads in Bridgeton Township. Mr. Dore wanted to make sure that roads approved for paving were not the same ones to be brined.

Work session activity: J. Howes reported that during a work session held at 6:30 PM 2/12/24 the members of the Planning Commission had reviewed the Bridgeton Township Ordinances related to Special Land Use, Farm Markets (Sections 13.06N, Section 12)

Zoning Administrator Report: See attached report provided by Bryan Kolk who was not in attendance for the meeting.

Old Business:

Brooks Auto facility forbearance: The forbearance agreement continues to be unresolved at the level of Bridgeton Township board.

New Business:

Special Land Use request for Farm Market Ryzebol Properties, LLC- (See attached document). Steve and Julie Leestma, owners and operators, of Hemlock Grove Farm, Newaygo, MI 49337, are lessees requesting a Special Land Use to renovate and use an existing pole barn at 5519 W. 104th St. Fremont, MI (62-21-01-300-015) for a Farm Market. J. Howes reported that a discussion with R. Coffey (MSU extension) indicated that this request is covered under the Michigan Right to Farm Act. Mr. Howes asked the Leestmas, who were in attendance if they were aware that the Michigan Right to Farm Act preempts local ordinances when 50% of the produce sold is from the owner's farm and the remaining 50% is an agricultural product. The Leestmas were not clear on all the details. D. McClintock made a motion that the Planning Commission recommends to the Bridgeton Township Board the Leestma Farm Market request through the Michigan Right to Farm Act with the stipulation that any further development would require a Special Land Use request. D. Hawkey-2nd. No further discussion. Roll Call vote- McClintock-yes, Dore-yes, Howes-yes, Clough-yes, Hawkey, yes-motion carried.

Public Comment: on non-agenda issues-no comments

Other: None

Adjourn: D. Hawkey made a motion for adjournment of the meeting-K. Clough 2nd. Motion carried: Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

DeAnn J. McClintock, Bridgeton Township Planning Commission Secretary