



TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

2016 MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 11, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Township Municipal Building

Members: Rick Mertz, Chairperson; Connie Bieling, Vice-Chairperson; Board Members - George White, Dave Beers, James Shafer, Robert O'Donnell and David DelGrosso; Jenny Cheng, Solicitor; Gregory Haas, Township Engineer; Carl Faust, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer; Brenda Drew, Secretary.

Guests: Kathleen Harding and Amadeo "Hector" Trasatti, 340 Doney Drive, Palmerton, PA

	DISCUSSION:	ACTION:
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag	None.	The Planning Commission meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
Reorganization of the 2016 Planning Commission:	None.	Rick Mertz requested a motion to appoint a temporary Chairperson. Dave Beers nominated James Shafer as temporary Chairperson, seconded by David DelGrosso. All in favor. James Shafer requested nominations for Chairperson for 2016. Dave Beers nominated Rick Mertz, seconded by David DelGrosso. All in favor. Rick Mertz requested nominations for Vice-Chairperson for 2016. Robert O'Donnell nominated James Shafer, seconded by Dave Beers. All in favor.
Approval of the Minutes:	None.	Rick Mertz called for a motion to approve the December 14, 2015 meeting minutes. David DelGrosso made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by George White. All in favor.
Public Participation:	None.	None.
Old Business: Street Excavation Ordinance Revisions	Copies of the 1/11/2016 draft containing input from Thomas Nanovic and the Supervisors were reviewed and discussed. References to "usage" were removed and terminology was revised and simplified within the Ordinance. Revisions and additions were also made to the application.	Greg will make adjustments/ revisions and once again confer with Township Solicitor Thomas Nanovic. It will possibly be ready for the February Supervisors meeting.

<p>New Business: Trasatti Conditional Use</p>	<p>Kathleen Harding and husband Amadeo (Hector) Trasatti discussed their application for a Conditional Use. They have an earthen home and a modular home on one large lot using a common well and septic. The earthen home was never taken out of use once the modular home was completed. They have been in discussion with Carl Faust. There are a few scenarios which are possible – connecting the two homes with a climate controlled breezeway, eliminating the kitchen in the earthen home, reducing the number of bedrooms, inspecting the existing septic for compliance, etc. Another scenario would involve a second well and septic, keeping both homes in use. Another would be to disconnect all water and sewer from the earthen home, leaving it as only living space.</p>	<p>The Planning Commission recommended tabling of the Conditional Use for the two dwellings on one property based on the conditions that the applicants agree to sign a waiver extending the timeframe in which the Supervisors must have a hearing on their application. Jenny Cheng will prepare a waiver. Carl Faust will meet with the Trasattis and then be in contact with Jenny, who will in turn let the Planning Commission know whether the issue will be on the February Planning Commission agenda.</p>
<p>Officials: Zoning Officer Report</p>	<p>Copies provided for review.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Discussion:</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Adjournment:</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Rick Mertz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. James Shafer made a motion for adjournment seconded by Dave Beers. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda L. Drew