

**Dorr Township Planning Commission
October 20, 2009 Minutes**

1. Chairman Robert Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call--Members Present: Dan Gesink, Melissa Harding, Bob Wagner, Bob Traxler, Gordon Lieffers, Larry Dolegoski, John Conklin. Members Absent: None.
Public Attendance – 5

4. The Minutes of the September 15, 2009 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Gordon Lieffers and supported by John Conklin to approve the minutes. All Ayes. Motion carried.

5. Changes or Additions to the Agenda
None.

6. Public Comments
None.

7. Old Business: none

8. New Business:

A) Garry Walters and the Dorr Nursery.

Per last years meeting Mr. Walters was asked to come back this year to discuss the permanence of his business that he leases from Robert Senneker. Mr. Walters confirmed that he does plan to continue occupying the site. The building has a steel construction that is good indefinitely and he is committed to replacing the plastic panels on the structure every 3-5 years as required. Gordon Leiffers questioned the need of plastic and how it is used in the business, Mr. Walters explained that the plastic must be a certain thickness and it is only good for his business to replace the plastic regularly for the health of his plants. If it is up to long it becomes brittle and discolored and his plants would not flourish.

Mr. Walters also confirmed that he is aware and willing to work around any developments that occur on the and around the property of Dicks Grocery store.

Gordon Leiffers motioned that is has been proven that the Nursery is a viable and well maintained business and the board will not request that Mr. Walters return next year unless there is a new issue. Motioned passed.

B. Outdoor wood burners

Board is looking into the creation of an ordinance concerning whether to allow or disallow Outdoor Wood burners. The definition of an Outdoor Furnace means a fuel-boiler, stove, or furnace often fueled by wood coal corn or other type of fuel, located outside the structure it is used to heat, with the designated purpose of providing indoor heat for water and/or air for a residence or other structure.

Gordon Leiffers has spoken to firemen and they have not been called to any fires due to one of these types of heating systems. PCI is sending Bob Wagner information from different townships to get an idea of their ordinances. Wayland City does not allow this type of heating system. Bob Traxler looked into the matter and found that they are expensive, but that precedence has been set that when a neighbor complains and brings suit against an owner the neighbor will generally win. Complaints are generally about the smoke and the smell of smoke because the smoke stack is much lower than the smoke stack on a house. He also found that they must be 25 feet from any residence or building and on a cleared area; this does not mention anything about the fuel supply being close to it.

The board decided to table the issue until more information could be gathered on the burners before and ordinance is created or if one shall be created.

C. Allegan County Planning Commission

There has been a discussion of the possibility of dissolving the Allegan county Planning Commission. The Allegan commission is in place to be a there in case there is a township without a planning commission, as of now all townships have a planning commission, it also there as an appeals court if something is disputed it can be sent to the Allegan Planning Commission for additional opinion.

As of yet there has not been a decision.

9. Commissioner comments: None

10: Adjournment at 7:30

The next scheduled regular Planning Commission meeting is November 17, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Harding

Melissa Harding
Secretary