

**Austinburg Township, Ohio  
Zoning Commission  
Regular Meeting  
June 12, 2017**

The Regular Meeting of the Zoning Commission was called to order on June 12, 2017 at 7:00 PM by the Chair, Mr. Rob Lapuh. Also present were Zoning Members Ms. Wanda Lahnan, Mr. Phil Miller and Mr. Ted Seifert. Not present was Ms. Jackie Krysa, Vice-Chair. Township Trustee Jerry Burke was present, as was Zoning Inspector John Beninato and Zoning Secretary Helen Yarbrough. Other attendees were Mr. Al Yarbrough and Mr. Gary Seech.

Mr. Lapuh asked the members if there were any corrections to the Minutes of the previous meeting held on May 17, 2017. Mr. Miller made a MOTION to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting as presented. Ms. Lahnan seconded the MOTION to accept the Minutes. All voted aye. None were opposed. The MOTION carried.

Three members were able to attend the American Planning Association meeting last Friday which included a session on medical marijuana.

Wanda Lahnan introduced Mr. Gary Seech from the staff of Glenbeigh, a local alcohol and drug treatment center. Mr. Seech passed out a paper by the American Society of Addition Medicine entitled “Public Policy Statement on Marijuana, Cannabinoids and Legalization.” He spoke on the subject of medical marijuana legalization from a viewpoint of a potential recipient, and of how marijuana is viewed by the public, and of how the legalization of it in certain states has changed the way it is viewed by the public, especially the young, who are especially susceptible to its negative long-term effects. When he was asked how long he thought it might take for medical marijuana to be legitimately available, he said that he hopes it does not, as the article states that the more and more legitimate it becomes, the more and more addiction will result – that for people who smoke marijuana, between 8 and 10 per cent will become dependent.

There was discussion about various aspects of legalizing medical marijuana in Ohio and how it might relate to Austinburg Township, particularly about how revenue might be realized as a result of having medical marijuana permits.

Mr. Beninato suggested that we call Ms. Janice Switzer of the County Planning Commission to see whether or not before the Planning Commission’s next meeting on Monday she wants a written recommendation, either approval or denial, of what the Trustees have requested.

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Mr. Seifert replied that we can't do that until we've first heard what the Planning Commission says, and heard what the public says.

Discussion followed about how much information we have at this point, what we still need to hear, and whether or not we have anything to recommend yet.

Mr. Miller made a MOTION that we take a vote on whether to take a position to let the County Planning Commission know that as of tonight we are leaning for or against the Trustees' Resolution. Mr. Seifert seconded the MOTION. Mr. Seifert clarified that we are not voting on the Trustees' resolution, but on whether we take a position on it tonight to provide the County Planning Commission with our input. All voted aye. None were opposed. The MOTION carried.

Mr. Seifert made a MOTION to provide the County Planning Commission with the following, that we as a Zoning Commission have some reservations concerning this proposal by the Township Trustees but yet have not received all the information necessary to make a firm decision, such as additional input from the Planning Commission and the public hearing. Ms. Lahnman seconded the MOTION. All voted aye. None were opposed. The MOTION carried.

No one had other business to bring before the Commission. Mr. Lapuh and Mr. Burke will attend the Planning Commission meeting on Monday at 4:30 PM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

Our next meeting will be a Public Hearing on July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

Ms. Lahnman made a MOTION to adjourn. Mr. Lapuh seconded the MOTION. All voted aye. None were opposed. The MOTION carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen H. Yarbrough