Meeting minutes of Planning Commission

 June 20, 2019

Chair Wenger called the meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 7:30 p.m. . Members Pete Stadler, Tim Shortley, Brendan Deyo and Obed Pellegrino were present. Mayor Ruspi was present. New member Shannon Allcock was present and sworn in with the oath of office by Mayor Ruspi. Secretary Charlene Dillingham was present.

The minutes of the Planning Commission Meeting on March 21, 2019, were approved as amended.

Member Stadler stated that this would be his final meeting. He shared that he had moved to Laytonsville in 1961 and Mayor White had brought him into the town government. He talked about the changes that had occurred within the town since that time, noting that he thought the walkable communities’ concept was a great idea. He urged members to keep their open minds.

Member Stadler remarked that in Laytonsville Grove, there is a grove of trees that are next to the sediment control pond. He stated that we need to keep the bulldozers from tearing them down.

Chair Wenger introduced Shannon Allcock as the newest member of the Planning Commission who will serving the remainder of Mark Frankowski’s term and then staying on to fill that vacancy. Member Allcock stated that he had lived in the area for 24 years and looked forward to serving on the Planning Commission.

Mayor Ruspi addressed the Planning Commission members. He thanked Member Stadler for the donation of a tree for Miller Park. He encouraged the Commission members to read the Comprehensive Plan. He remarked that more parks should be incorporated into the subdivisions in the future. He thanked the Commission members for the time that they gave to serve. Member Shortley remarked that it would be helpful to have all of the commission’s work together to establish strategic priorities for the town that the entire town government could work towards achieving.

Chair Wenger talked to the members about their duties in serving on the Planning Commission, encouraging participation and attendance at quarterly meetings. Chair Wenger stated that all members need to take the mandatory online training offered by Montgomery Planning and present the certificate to Charlene Dillingham. The rules and procedures for the Planning Commission were reviewed. Chair Wenger stated that the role of the Planning Commission was to look to the future. He added that they do the best they can with the information available but sometimes they get things wrong citing the lighting plan in Laytonsville Grove. Member Deyo commented that the charter should spell out all of the elements that the Planning Commission are responsible for.

Walkable Communities – Chair Wenger remarked that progress was being made on Miller Park. It will be a destination and it is positive for the town as it fits into the walkable community concept. He commented that we need green space and open space but he didn’t think we needed a park in every quadrant of the time. Member Allcock commented that he notices a lot more people walking around time.

ByPass – Chair Wenger shared that Mayor Ruspi had recently met with the Laytonsville Preserve Home Owner’s Association. The residents in attendance indicated that they are aware of the town’s intent to build a bypass which will go through their subdivision. A meeting to discuss the bypass with County Executive Elrich is scheduled for May 20. Mayor Ruspi, Chair Wenger and Consultant Doug Lohmeyer will attend. The goal of the meeting is to gain support to get the bypass project back on the Transportation Priority list that is sent from the county to the state.

Member Deyo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm. . Member Shortley seconded the motion. **Unanimously approved**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Dillingham

Secretary

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