

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting of the Township Board

August 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call - Gillett, H. Hoffman, Wittenbach, J. Hoffman, and Rasch were all present.

The agenda was approved as presented with an addition of New Business- add #9. POW MIA Day Resolution. Gillett Motioned, Rasch seconded. All members voted yes.

Motion carried.

The July minutes were accepted as presented with a motion from Gillett. H. Hoffman seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

The treasurer's report was read. J. Hoffman motioned to pay the bills as listed, Gillett seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment:

There were no citizen's comments.

Public Hearing – Core Farms LLC- DBA Red Barn Market– SDM license to sell packaged beer and wine for off premises consumption.

The public hearing was opened at 7:06 pm

Public comment was taken:

Bryan Newell- 11441 Lally St., Lowell

Bryan spoke in support of Red Barn's request to sell packaged beer and wine. He likes the convenience of the market for Murray Lake residents. He believes it is a good opportunity for the community and the business.

The public hearing was closed at 7:07 pm

Unfinished Business:

1. Core Farms LLC- SDM License-

The Board held discussion. Gillett motioned to recommend to the Liquor Board that the Township supports Red Barn's request to sell packaged beer and wine for off premises consumption. H. Hoffman seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

2. Bailey Cemetery Signage – no new update

3. Hall Facilities Study Update- Lowell Area Community Fund grant application submitted

The grant for the facilities study was submitted to the Lowell Area Community Fund and will be awarded in October.

A special meeting will take place August 31, 2017 at 9 am to view preliminary drawings presented by Tim Spitzley Architect.

New Business:

1. PA 116 Designated Open Space program– 593 Flat River Dr. – Bill and Brenda Schreur

Bill provided the board with a packet of information and explained why they want to be a part of this PA 116 program. The Board held discussion.

Gillett motioned to support the application for PA 116 on Flat River Dr., Wittenbach seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

2. Sue Walter - Pheasant Valley Drive –private road problem

Sue lives at 1045 Alden Nash Ave. S, Lowell –Sue voiced concerns with the condition and safety of her private drive Pheasant Valley. Pheasant Valley is a private road and is maintained by the property owners on the road. There are eleven houses. She believes her Road Maintenance Agreement for the drive is outdated. Sue held a meeting with her neighbors to discuss the road condition and present a quote for repairs that was close to \$2000 per household. A few neighbors decided on a less costly repair, but Sue believes that the repair was done with below grade material and will not provide a long term solution. Sue did not agree to this fix. The board noted that Pheasant Valley is a grandfathered private drive and the board has no authority to require that it meet current private drive specs. It was noted that Township resources cannot be spent on private drives. Sue asked that the board revisit her road maintenance agreement and reevaluate the grandfather clause to see if it can be changed. She asked that the zoning administrator visit her road and report back to the board.

3. Special Use Permit – 345 Cumberland Ave – Dan and Jean Hoffman

A packet of information was provided to the board. The Hoffmans would like to build an accessory dwelling on their son's property. Gillett made a motion to set a public hearing for the October 18 board meeting. Wittenbach seconded. All members vote yes. **Motion carried.**

4. Permit for Fireworks- Roth Farm 10708 Vergennes- October 21, 2017

The board looked over the submitted permit application and insurance information. The Board held discussion.

H. Hoffman motioned to approve the permit for fireworks on Roth Farms for October 21, 2017, Gillett seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

5. Private Street Approval -Harvest Meadows

The board was provided a packet of information and drawings of Phase One drive for Harvest Meadows which includes a letter of credit. Wittenbach motioned to approve the Harvest Meadows Phase One -Private Road on the condition of a change in their Letter of Credit's expiration date should be extended to the end of 2020. Gillett seconded. All members vote yes. **Motion carried.**

6. Elections Equipment Update- Out with the old...In with the new

Dominion will pick up the old election equipment next week. The Township will have new equipment by the end of the year. The state grant will cover the cost of the equipment. The only cost to the township will be the cost of two modems which will run close to \$250 a piece.

7. Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) Update- Phase II – Gee Drive to M-21

LARA will be receiving bids for the Gee Drive to M-21 trail project. There is also discussion about each municipality adopting language in their ordinances to include the trails. The LARA engineer will provide language and this will be revisited at a future meeting.

8. Board discussion – Road-Right-of-Way

The Board held discussion about the road-right-of-way and how it effects splits and set backs of three acre parcels in the RA district. J. Hoffman motioned to bring this to the planning commission to revisit. Gillett seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

9. POW MIA Day- September 15th, 2017.

Wittenbach motioned pass resolution 2017-010 designating September 15, 2017 as POW MIA Day, J. Hoffman seconded. All members voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment

Sue Walter-

Asked how the board plans to control the traffic flow from the high school after the new homes on Alden Nash are built. She has concerns regarding the increase in cars. Wittenbach explained that Kent County Road Commission has a safety department that monitors traffic carefully and does studies to detect traffic patterns. He added that Alden Nash is a Class A road and has high priority.

Bill Schreur-

There is a thousand foot stretch of Forrest River Drive that is crumbling and he is concerned about the condition. He inquired if the board could ask the county to fix this part of the road. Jean Hoffman explained that the township pays 55 percent of any repairs to secondary roads. Bill asked that Jeanne Vandersloot take a look at this part of the road and report what she finds. He asked for the board to review this.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2017 at 7 p.m.