

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2006

The regular meeting of the Vergennes Township meeting was called to order by Tim Wittenbach at 7:00 pm in the Vergennes Township Hall.

Members Present: Tim Wittenbach - Supervisor
Mari Stone - Clerk
Jean Hoffman - Treasurer
Vern Nauta - Trustee
Al Baird - Trustee

The agenda for the December 18, 2006 meeting was approved by Nauta; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion approved.** The minutes for the December 18 meeting were approved. The Treasurers report and bills were approved with a motion by Nauta; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion approved.**

Public Hearing – Kosnik Pole Building SEUP Request – 101 Parnell – The Kosnik’s would like a pole barn on their property. It is going to look like a garage, not a barn, and be placed halfway between their house and the road. The public hearing was opened at 7:06 and closed at 7:07 with no comments.

Unfinished Business:

1. Historical Districts Ordinance & Master Plan Updates – There was a motion to table the ordinance for a month by Nauta; seconded by Stone. **Motion approved.**
2. Rick Gillett – Kent County Road Cuts, Site Plan – The road Gillett lives on, Boynton Road, is in horrible shape. He showed pictures of the road. A new house was recently built by his house, and it has caused much damage to the road. There is a hole six feet deep on the house’s property that is a safety issue. Gillett says that the site plan was changed without notifying the proper authority. This has caused the road to be flooded with water, among other things. This issue needs to be discussed with the county, and the Township doesn’t have much authority in the issue. Gillett strongly recommended that the township find out who is checking the building permits and sites.
3. LARA Agreement Amendment - There was a motion to eliminate the term limits from the agreement by Nauta; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion approved.**

New Business:

1. Kosnik Pole Building SEUP Request – A motion to approve a SEUP for the pole barn was approved by Baird; seconded by Nauta. **Motion approved.**

Guest – Kent District Library Annual Report – The library is doing well. Circulation is up by five percent, and holds are up by twenty five percent. They welcomed one new staff member in 2005. The library is hoping to get self-checkouts soon. The FRIENDS group is going strong.

2. Appointments –

- Zoning Board of Appeals – All members of the board are willing to continue serving. There was a motion to renew the terms by Hoffman; seconded by Nauta.

Motion approved.

- Planning Commission – There was a motion to renew Rick Gillette’s term by Wittenbach; seconded by Stone. **Motion approved.**

- Board of Review – There was a motion to renew the terms of all three current members by Wittenbach; seconded by Hoffman.

- Construction Board of Appeal – Stone nominated Bill Schreur for a three-year term. There was a motion to grant Schreur a new term by Stone; seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion approved.**

3. Alden Nash Meadows Private Road – Linda Biggs has fixed the problems on her site plan. The assessor has approved the splits. Biggs is waiting until the board approves the plan before she begins the road maintenance agreement. A waiver is being issued to allow Biggs to use her two current driveways, one for her house, the other for agricultural use, after the land is developed. There was a motion to grant the waiver and approval of the private road contingent on a receipt of an approved road maintenance agreement by Stone; seconded by Nauta. **Motion approved.**

4. Schreur Requests –

- Designated Open Space Status – Currently Schreur’s land is on different easements and he wants to put it under one. Schreur’s land was on an old forest program that worked well. Schreur is going to put his land, along with some others, together and apply for another program run by the state. There was a motion for Abe DeHaan to make an application to the state by Hoffman; seconded by Baird. **Motion approved.**

- Amendment to Scenic View Plats 4 and 5 – August ’06 approval – The numbers have changed on these plats. Should be #4 – 40-66, and #5 - 67-81 There was a motion to approve the new numbers by Baird; seconded by Nauta. **Motion approved.**

- Determine Escrow Deposit amount for Site Condo Project –Schreurs will be doing their project in phases and would like the whole project approved at once. There was a motion to set the escrow fees for the Schreur site condominium project at \$4,000 and to allow the project to be done in phases with a form of agreement to complete each phase by Stone Seconded by Nauta. **Motion approved.**

Stone and Hoffman had noticed an oversight in the escrow deposit category listing – nothing for Commercial/Industrial projects. There was a motion to include a Commercial and Industrial category in the escrow fees, in the amount of \$2,500, by Nauta; seconded by Hoffman. **Motion approved.**

5. KCRC Work Order For Fallasburg Park Dr. – Almost a mile of Fallasburg will be redone. The work will be fairly extensive. There was a motion to sign the work order by Wittenbach; seconded by Stone. **Motion approved.**
6. Forestland Holdings – Drainage plan contingency discussion – The townships attorney rewrote the maintenance agreement after VanderWerff voiced his concerns. VanderWerff is still not happy with the agreement, and would like the attorney to put the drainage issues all on one page. VanderWerff wants to make sure the landowner knows it is their responsibility to clean out the drainage. DeVries thinks that VanderWerff’s concerns are covered in the revised version of the maintenance agreement. There was a motion by Nauta to grant a preliminary road construction permit contingent on an affirmation by Township Engineer Dave Austin that the drainage culvert/basin under the private road has been built according to the submitted drainage plan’s specifications. Stone seconded, and the **Motion approved.** VanderWerff will be invited to witness the site visit and discuss his concerns with the engineer.
7. Approval of Meeting Schedule and Holiday Hours for 2007 – The schedule was approved with a motion by Wittenbach; seconded by Nauta.
8. Update and request re: Boy Scout Property letter of Support – The North Country Trail Association is still planning to pursue purchase of this property, and would like a letter of support from Vergennes for application to the Lowell Area Community Fund for financial assistance in this project. Stone will draft something to look at for the January meeting.
9. Collection of Summer Taxes for LAS, GRCC & KISD – There was a motion to approve collection of the school taxes in the summer by Hoffman, seconded by Stone. **Motion approved.**
10. Poverty Exemption Standards for 2007 – There was a motion to adopt the 2007 federal guidelines for poverty by Wittenbach; seconded by Baird. **Motion approved.**

Citizens Comments

Craig Wood had a comment regarding cars racing. In September, a man was coming around a curve on Covered Bridge Road and two cars came around the opposite way and forced him to drive off the road. He was severely injured, and was laid up until recently.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mari Stone, Clerk