

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2014

As amended

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

Members Present: Tim Wittenbach -Supervisor
Jean Hoffman -Treasurer
Mari Stone -Clerk
Rick Gillett -Trustee

The agenda was approved as presented with a motion made by Rick Gillett; seconded by Jean Hoffman. **Motion Carried.** The minutes for the January 15, 2014 special meeting and the January 21, 2014 regular meeting were approved as presented. Treasurer's report and bills were read and approved with a motion made by Jean Hoffman; seconded by Rick Gillett. **Motion Carried.**

Public Hearing – River Edge Bed and Breakfast, Request to Amend SEUP and Split

The hearing opened at 7:10. Bill and Brenda Schreur were present to address their requests for an amendment of their Special Exception Use for River Edge Bed and Breakfast, and a split of the property. There were several brief comments of support. The hearing closed at 7:11.

Unfinished Business:

1. River Edge B&B – The Schreur's discussed the proposed split and pavilion with the Board. They had a new version of the split, which satisfied the board's concerns. A motion was made by Stone, seconded by Gillett, to approve the split and amend the SEUP. **Motion Carried.**

New Business:

1. J&H Oil, Gas Station/Convenience Store Site Plan Revisions – The new plan is to include a walk-in cooler on the rear of the building. They intend to apply to the Michigan Liquor Commission for a license to sell packaged beer, wine, and liquor. The Board had many questions regarding this change of plans, and Gillett motioned to table the subject to the March 17th meeting for further information. Hoffman seconded, and the **Motion Carried.**

2. North Country Trail Association – Proposed Memorandum of Understanding – Chuck Hayden, a local representative of the NCTA, was present to explain the proposed route amendments, which will bring hikers through the township on an east/west route. The NCTA has already reached MOU's with Ada and Cannon Townships to the west. The MOU summarizes how they plan to do business with the local jurisdictions, and does not require or ask for funding. Motion by Stone, seconded by Gillett, to approve the MOU with NCTA. **Motion Carried.**

3. Cover Concepts – Request for Temporary Sign – Owner Christine Bazzette addressed the Board regarding her move to a vacant building on Lincoln Lake just north of Vergennes. She plans to install her lighted sign by the roadway once the ground is thawed in spring, but in the meantime would like to use a banner on the front of the building as a temporary sign. She also has an existing awning that wraps around a corner and features her business name on both sides which she would like to reuse on this site. Vandersloot was looking for direction on whether this constitutes one sign or two. The Board agreed that it is one. Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Wittenbach, to allow the use of the banner as a temporary sign until June 1st, and to allow the permanent installation of the awning. **Motion Carried.**

4. Appointment of Trustee and ZBA to Fill Terms held by Allan Baird – Wittenbach explained that anyone interested in filling the Trustee position will need to run for the partial term in the August Primary and November General Elections. *Former Trustee Vern Nauta has agreed to serve in the interim.* He has no intention to be on the ballot. Wittenbach motioned to appoint Vern Nauta Trustee to fill the term until a candidate can be elected in November. Gillett seconded, and the **Motion Carried.**

Wittenbach motioned to appoint Rick Gillett to serve as *Alternate* on the ZBA, and to move Roger Odell from Alternate to Regular member status. Stone seconded, and the **Motion Carried.**

Wittenbach motioned to have Rick Gillett serve as Board Rep on the Planning Commission. Hoffman seconded, and the **Motion Carried.**

Citizen’s Comments:

Pete Gustafson suggested a tribute plaque for Al Baird, and the Board confirmed that one is being ordered. He also would like to see a candidate forum for the Trustee race so that all candidates can answer questions from interested residents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, _____