

Vergennes Township

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2007

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

Members Present:	Tim Wittenbach	Supervisor
	Jean Hoffman	Treasurer
	Al Baird	Trustee
	Vern Nauta	Trustee

Members Absent	Mari Stone	Clerk
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The agenda for the May 21, 2007 meeting was approved with additions by Nauta, seconded by Wittenbach. **Motion Approved.** The minutes for the April 15, 2007 meeting were approved. Treasurer's report read and approved. Bills were approved as presented by Nauta; seconded by Hoffman.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

1. **Planning Commission Recommendations, Zoning Amendments:**
Vandersloot's memo summarizes changes and additions to Zoning Ordinance as recommended by Planning Commission. **Motion** to adopt Ordinance 2007-1 as presented by Nauta, seconded by Baird.
Roll Call – Nauta, Wittenbach, Baird, Hoffman voted yes. Stone – absent
2. **Annual CDBG contracts** for Senior Neighbors and Hope Network –
Motion to support both contracts as presented by Baird, seconded by Nauta. Motion approved.
3. **Appointment to fill vacated Board of Review term** –Tim Wittenbach talked to Todd Cooper about his resignation. He is willing to serve out his term for 2007. We do have another applicant for BOR – Dan Faulkner. There was a motion by Hoffman to have Todd Cooper serve out his term thru 2007 with Dan Faulkner serving as alternate. In 2008, Dan Faulkner would become regular member and Todd Cooper would be the alternate. Seconded by Wittenbach. Motion approved.

4. **2007 PDR Application** approvals – There are three applications for PDR, Wilcox, Koning and Nauta. Vern Nauta removed himself from the voting citing conflict of interest. Motion by Baird, seconded by Hoffman to approve applications. Motion approved.
5. **Master Plan Affirmation** – There is common consent among board members to affirm Master plan per Wittenbach.
6. **Noise/Barking Dogs** – discussion among board members regarding barking dog complaints. Community service officer from Kent County Sheriff's Department went out to speak to both parties. If it were up to him, he would ticket both parties. Neither was home but dogs at both residences were barking incessantly. Does the township board want to pursue an ordinance for a single dispute? Per Jeanne Vandersloot, Township zoning officer, she receives 1-2 complaints every couple years. She tells the parties to write to the Township Board with their concerns. When there are a lot of complaints, the Board will revisit the issue.
7. **Reappointment of Vergennes Rep.** Betsy Davidson to Community Fund Board – Motion to approve by Baird, seconded by Hoffman. Motion Passed.
8. Violations and other business per Jeanne Vandersloot – She handed out letters sent to property owners regarding various violations. First letter was to **12950 Beckwith**. Homeowner was to clean up property per court order of 11/1/06. Jeanne rechecked property early May, 2007. Vehicles are gone, still has freezer, old oil tanks and scrap metal, old bathtub, etc... Lawnmower covered in tarp also there. Letter was sent advising property would be rechecked before May Board meeting. Tub is now in road right-of-way with religious statue in it. Mower is gone. Other items are not visible from road. Homeowner called Wittenbach when he received letter. Since current items are not visible from road, Wittenbach suggested it be resolved for now, Baird agreed. No further action unless more complaints come in.

14201 Thompson Drive – excavator tore up natural vegetation strip along river 3-4 years ago. Homeowner was to replant area. He did but some plants died. 11/05 a planting plan was submitted. Jeanne met with him 5/21/07 morning, Much of one side is re-growing nicely. Should she make him plant trees per planting plan or continue to monitor it. Without taking homeowner to court, write letter requesting trees be replanted per plan. If no action, then pursue civil ticket. Follow up at June meeting.

985 N. Washington – This was a lighting complaint taken to Zoning Board of Appeals. Is it considered nuisance. One light is ok. One is a nuisance. Can see from Flat River Drive. Homeowner refused to come to meeting. Won't put shield on light (180 degree). Older part of ordinance states no light should bother neighbor/driving public. Sent him copy of sample light pictures from new lighting ordinance. He could use those or make one himself. Homeowner will not cooperate. Ticket?? Motion to issue ticket by Nauta, seconded by Hoffman if work is not completed one

week from Friday, May 25. Ticket would be issued on or about June 1, 2007. Motion approved.

Activity Reports for April, 2007 enclosed. New maps were included in packet with zoning layers.

Sign Permit for Fallasburg Park soccer fields. They lose the grandfathering on the sign permit. New sign is much bigger than ordinance allows. Owner will remove and apply for new sign.

Williams and Works – One planner left firm, another out on leave. Jay Kilpatrick wondered if it was ok to have Ryan Kilpatrick attend PC meetings and be company representative. Jay and Larry would back him up on major projects. His hourly rate is less than Jay's. Vandersloot worked with him on master plan. He also did work on windmill research. No complaints. Planning commission is not yet aware of change. There was a tentative board ok unless major objection from planning commission. When Jeanne sends packets next week, she will note probable change. If there are concerns, talk to Township Board.

DNR no wake zone – signs for no-wake zone are available thru DNR now. Per our ordinance, two signs are suggested. Three existing signs should be replaced also since they are faded and hard to read. Ron Dawson received quote of \$75 per sign. DNR signs are \$18 - \$22 each. Discussion about need for signs and who should pay for them. Motion to purchase two signs but not replace three older signs by Hoffman. Changed to purchase one two-sided sign and have Bill Schreur install. Seconded by Nauta. Roll call – Nauta, Wittenbach, Hoffman Yes. Baird, no. Motion passed.

Citizens Comments

Katy Johnson with plans to put polo field at Bennett/Vergennes Street. Does sign ordinance apply to signs on arena walls. They would be between bleachers and arena walls. Could shield area with trees. If signs were temporary, no problem. Plenty of room for parking – mostly in hayfields. Separate area for horse trailers. They are charging for attendance. Dust control already in works. Use for current horse shows. Looking to get Lowell schools involved thru Equestrian team and possibly 4-H. Special use permit probably not needed since it not much different than what is currently being held there. Just wanted to let us know what the plans were and to work with the Township to avoid problems in future. Township Board appreciates notice. Does not foresee any problems.

Steinbrecker was wondering about status of camper on property across Lally from Marina. He is trying to sell his property and there is an eyesore across street. Vandersloot went by property 5/21. Camper is still there. She will send another letter to property owner. Revisit next month.

Steinbrecker also wanted to know if it was ok to close in the lean – to part of his building (south side of building west of Alden Nash.) Siding would match existing building. It would look nicer. No objections from Board.

He also mentioned that the “migrant camp” on former Kropf property is no longer used for migrants. It is rented out to people who work in Lowell. May want to look into if zoning allows for this type of rental.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Stone