

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Special meeting of July 8, 2009

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairperson Alan Rumbaugh called the regular meeting of the Grattan Township Planning Commission to order at the Grattan Township Hall at 12050 Old Belding Road at 7:00 p.m. Members present: A. Berry, J. Proos, S. Miller, L. Sostecke, S. Christians, D. Heffron and A. Rumbaugh. Members absent: none. Township Supervisor Frank Force also attended the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

A. Rumbaugh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

A. Rumbaugh added a discussion of overgrown/abandoned properties. L. Sostecke moved and A. Berry seconded to approve the amended agenda. All ayes. The motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Minor corrections were made to the June 3, 2009 regular meeting minutes (addendum). S. Miller moved and L. Sostecke seconded to approve the amended minutes. All ayes. The motion carried.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Public Hearing- Ryan Howe- 12375 Woodland Park Dr.-Expand Deck on a Non Conforming Lot

A. Rumbaugh briefly explained the proposal to add a deck and small addition at the back of the existing house. Commission members discussed the size of the deck. L. Sostecke said she had no problem with the expansion, but would like the deck size slightly smaller (12' instead of the proposed 14') to improve the line of sight at the corner. She also would like the resolution to state that the ~~upper~~ deck could never be enclosed ON THE UPPER AND LOWER LEVEL.

S. Christians said he drove by the property and did not think a 14' deck would be a problem with the line of sight. He said there even appears to be enough room with a 14' deck to park a car there. J. Proos asked if the deck would have stairs. Ryan Howe drew a diagram of the stair location. Commission members

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discussed the placement of stairs and deck size. It was agreed to allow 14' with stairs (as allowed by code) that stay within the footprint of the proposal. L. Sostecke said the proposed storage addition should be included in the resolution.

L. Sostecke moved and D. Heffron seconded to open the public hearing. All ayes. The motion carried. There were no public comments or written correspondence.

L. Sostecke moved and D. Heffron seconded to close the public hearing. All ayes. The motion carried.

A. Berry read the amended resolution out loud.

L. Sostecke moved and S. Christians seconded to approve the amended resolution. Roll call vote: All ayes. The motion carried.

7. Discussion- Overgrown/Abandoned Properties

A. Rumbaugh provided copies of the city of Belding's weed ordinance. He also has obtained a copy of the city of Lowell's ordinance. He said Cannon Township uses State law regarding weed control and does not have a Township weed ordinance. Vergennes Township also does not have an ordinance regarding weed control. Both Townships said they have avoided that matter. It was noted that although some cities have a weed control ordinance, most townships do not. Commissioners discussed the matter and agreed to revisit this matter at a later date if needed.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, A. Rumbaugh declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on August 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Timmons
Recording Secretary, GTPC

Al Berry, Secretary, GTPC