

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Public Hearing December 7, 2010
For Conditional Use Permit Application for St. Thomas Daycare on
Hickory Sticks tax parcel N-14-24-400-019

These minutes are not approved until our next meeting.

Members present: Peter DeLoof, Carol Huehl, Larry Lindemann, Susan Ochs and Dan Schaible. Also present Township Planner Bill DeGroot. Stephen Warwick liaison for St Thomas Lutheran Church.

A motion was made by Huehl with support from Ochs to open the public hearing. Motion passed. Public Hearing began at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman opened the meeting to the public and asked that they identify themselves before speaking.

Richard Stapnowski – Questioned how many acres would be fenced in. It was answered 26 acres which is according to State requirements. He also asked about population. Stephen Warwick said depending on age of children and Staff background probably 15 to start and up to 30 total. The staffing is based on the State requirements and they have to abide by the State requirements.

Stephen Warwick went over the primary function of the site. It's to be a daycare for the surrounding areas, alternative worship site for St Thomas Lutheran Church and other community activities. Stephen said the site was for church events only. No concerts or renting out for group parties, no loud speakers or spot lights. They would like to have their church garage sale there which is an outdoor event. He stated the State regulation is quite in depth. The curriculum is not in place yet. He said that Hickory Sticks is the perfect setting for a daycare because it has one big room that can be divided with temporary dividers when needed. The State has specific fire code and health requirements that they would have to meet.

Brian Earl – Asked if at some time the site would be changing to a Church? He was concerned because he enjoys target shooting on his property and did not want to worry about the Sheriff being called on him.

Charles Schulz, Pastor of St Thomas Lutheran Church – responded that the site would be multi-purpose; but that Mr. Earl would not have to worry as his property was far enough away.

Peter DeLoof – mentioned possibility of a berm between the property lines.

Brian Earl – asked about the time frame.

Chairman Lindemann – responded that no decision would be made tonight. The decision would be next month unless a special meeting is required before then.

Stephen Warwizk said they were definitely interested in a special meeting. He explained they had started this back in late June early July and were anxious to keep it moving along.

Dan Schaible – asked if any setbacks are required in an Agricultural area.

Stephen Warwizk said they could not find any.

Peter DeLoof – wondered if they would be claiming tax exemption.

Stephen Warwizk answered yes, that these are Church activities and the Church is a non-profit organization.

Carol Huehl – asked how large their congregation was.

Pastor Charles Schulz said they had 75 members on the roll but the average Sunday morning attendance was 50. He would like to have the daycare during the weekdays and a Contemporary Worship service during the weeknights. He said the Daycare/Childcare was a Church outreach in Christian Education.

Hearing no further discussion a motion was made by DeLoof with support from Schaible to close the Public Hearing. Motion passed.

The Public Hearing ended at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ann Huehl, secretary