

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Public Hearing

August 1, 2023

These minutes are not approved until our next meeting.

Chairman Little called the Public Hearing to order at 7:31 p.m. for an application from Stoneco of Michigan to amend the conditional use permit approved in 2020 for the Stoneco-Burmeister Pit expansion on parcels #N-14-26-300-007 and N-14-26-300-014 on the North side of Bethel Church Road and East side of Schneider Road.

Members present: Karen Flahie, Susan Ochs, Matt Little and Mike Bossory. Dan Schaible was absent. Planner Rodney Nanney and Township Supervisor Larry Lindemann were also present along with Engineer Marcus McNamara.

Rodney Nanney gave an overview. He stated that the approval in 2020 had many conditions. The company wants to be removed from those setbacks. They want to go to a 200 foot setback to allow for further mining.

James Campbell from Stoneco presented a map of the area.

There were 12 members from Bethel Church present.

Marcus McNamara asked if there would be negative consequences to the bordering properties.

Larry Lindemann stated that Stoneco offered the 500 foot setback not the Planning Commission.

Nate Munson asked if the berm along Bethel Church Road would be moved. The answer was yes.

Aaron Helber wondered where the berm would be located in regards to the Church.

Larry Kim asked how far from the Church would the setback be.

David Bucholtz asked what the point was for the give and take of the setback to the North.

Darlene Keebler said her major concern was for the Church. She is concerned for even minimal vibrations.

Jessica Roberts is opposed to changes. She wants the original setbacks kept. She asked what was worth protecting? Will Freedom Township benefit from this? She requests an escrow account be established to offset any damage to the Church if the setback change is approved.

Cat Meier owns 17 acres and is hearing sonic booms. They make her windows shake. She is worried if the mining is too close to the Church it would affect the water table.

Rudy Layher wondered if Stoneco could place flags where the berm would be placed in relation to the Church so people could get a better idea of where the new berm would be. Include the berm to the South and to the West as well including Schneider Road.

Nate Munson asked about the water table. The answer was they are required to stay within 10 feet of it. He asked how long it would take to move the berm. He also wondered about the mountain of dirt. It was answered that the dirt was being removed for restoration.

Christine Whitesell stated a quality issue caused this change to be requested.

Carl Jobkar asked when the mining will be done if the berm is moved. The answer was 1 to 2 years more. He appreciates the berm by the house; it has helped some in regards to dust.

Fran Adler is opposed to this. She wants them out of here. She feels there is no good reason to do this other than to benefit Stoneco.

Judy Yankee said when the agreement was made it should stay that way. She wants the company to be honest in rendering their promise. No new vibration studies have been given in regards to moving the setbacks.

Someone asked if it would be possible to keep the 500 foot setback by the Church.

Meg Munson stated this community has sacrificed a great deal.

Chairman Little said they would not be making a decision on this tonight but would have it at the next meeting.

Chairman Little closed the Public Hearing at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ann Huehl, Recording Secretary