

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Public Hearing Zoning Ordinance amendments camping
Activities, temporary or short term

September 5, 2017

These minutes are not approved until our next meeting.

Chairman Lindemann called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Karen Flahie, Matt Little, Larry Lindemann, Susan Ochs and Dan Schaible. Township Supervisor, Dale Weidmayer and Planner Rodney Nanney were in attendance also.

There was a motion by Flahie to open the Public Hearing, supported by Little, motion passed

Chairman Lindemann asked planner, Rodney Nanney, to give a brief overview of the proposed amendments to the ordinance. He stated the purpose of the amendments was to create an allowance for a limited ability to camp on vacant lots.

Several emails were received by the commission.

Chuck Goodwin requested a change because he has a RV that is parked in his driveway that is in front of the front building line.

Frank Lobbestael asked how many campers and how long they would be there. Also he has concern that more campers may mean more boats and with that is a greater chance of bringing in invasive species.

Carol Westfall suggested that there should be more definition around the use of tents for temporary camping and also the need for sanitary facilities for those tent dwellers.

Public comments;

Jan Richards asked about the seasonal dates in sec.6.21 B-1, why those dates.

June Fowler asked about the proposed permits, who needs them and where to get them.

George Kuboff asked what is short term camping.

Caroline Rice asked about rest room facility standards and who enforces them.

Shirley Lusk has a travel trailer parked next to her garage when not in use and doesn't have enough room to meet set back requirements, has been kept there for sixteen years with no complaints. What should she do. And what prompted this? Chairman Lindemann answered complaints.

Jan Davis talked about some unmowed lots at the lake. She was told to call the ordinance enforcement officer.

Beth Heuser talked about adding tents to the language on page two and three, per Carol Westfall's email. Also spoke about the need for proper waste disposal. Also adding that the wording of the ordinance needs to be clear. She also asked about camping items left behind when no one is there. Planner Rodney Nanny answered that the camping gear would have to leave with the campers because there can not be an accessory building with out a primary residence, but it could be stored in a R.V. He then went on to explain the township's steps that are taken for legal means of enforcing ordinances.

Dave Fowler asked about the seasonal limitations, what if he wants to come to the lake in the winter to go ice fishing. He also stated that he has two trash cans, empties the waste holding tank every time he takes the trailer away and tries to keep his property clean. He said he pays taxes on the property he should be able to use it. He wondered who was complaining about them.

Gary Barrett said he just stores a RV, how does this apply to him?

June Fowler asked about the 45 day seasonal limit. She didn't think that was enough.

Gary Kuboff asked about a trailer for storage on an unoccupied lot.

Jan Richards said there a few lots that have small storage shed without a dwelling.

Dave Fowler said that the accessory building for storage needs to be looked at.

Caroline Rice said that by allowing camping that would add to the amount of boats using the lake and the threat of bad things being put in the lake.

There being no further public comment, Chairman Lindemann closed the public hearing at 8:25.

Respectfully,
Dan Schaible