

FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
September 15, 2022

SIG   
**APPROVED**

The meeting was held both in person and via Zoom and was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

Roll call: Paul Thoma Dennis Staelgraeve Hillary Venier  
Don Abrams Chris Collins Brian Dotson  
Fred Calkins

Absent: Mark Mathe, Mannik & Smith Group, Township Engineer  
Lucie Fortin, Mannik & Smith Group, Township Planner

Also present:

Mario Ortega, McKenna Associates, Township Planning Consultant  
Cindy Allor, acting Planning Commission Recording Secretary

3 interested citizens

2 interested citizens via ZOOM

A quorum being present, Chairman Paul Thoma called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. This meeting was held under the Open Meetings Act.

All those present were requested by Chairperson Thoma to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item No. 1 Agenda Approval.**

**Motion**

Moved By: Dennis Staelgraeve Supported By: Don Abrams MUC

A motion was made to approve the agenda.

**Item No. 2 Minutes August 18, 2022, Meeting.**

**Motion**

Moved By: Hillary Venier

Supported By: Dennis Staelgraeve MUC

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the August 18, 2022, Planning Commission meeting as presented.

**Item No. 3 Public comment**

Neil Masserant approached the Board as a courtesy on possible rezoning of the 100 acres/3 parcels with frontage on Newport South Road. Chairman Thoma thanked Mr. Masserant for approaching the Commission and let him know when the time comes the Commission looks forward to working with him.

**Motion**

Moved By: Hillary Venier

Supported By: Fred Calkins MUC

A motion to accept and place on file the following correspondence:

- Handout from Neil Masserant regarding future proposal regarding 97.76 Acres on Newport South Road. This includes 3 parcels 07-011-013-00, 07-011-002-00 and 07-011-016-00.

Resident Mr. Bill Conner addressed the Board regarding Camp Lord Willing. Mr. Conner resides at 1883 Stumpmier and stated he's been voicing complaints regarding yearlong guests, and other issues for years and would like action taken. Chairman Thoma assured Mr. Conner that the Commission takes his complaints very seriously and will keep him informed as things progress with action, by notice of public hearings.

Chairman Thoma invited new Building Official to the stand to introduce himself. Mr. Gary Dahl introduced himself, he stated he looks forward to all the potential development in the Township and the opportunity to take on the Building Official role.

**Item No. 4 DISCUSSION of the New Frenchtown Township Zoning Ordinance.**

Mario Ortega presented the clean version and gave members the corrections, additions, and suggestions from the township attorney. Members made comments.

Chairman Thoma requested information that was received and included in Board packets from Township Blight Officer Mr. Howard Storey be forwarded on to Planner Lucie Fortin. He also stated that it will be helpful for Ms. Fortin, Mr. Dahl, and Mr. Storey to have a discussion regarding the information.

Chairman Thoma called three times to see if there was any public comment, as we had 2 residents via Zoom, no comments were made.

**Motion**

Moved By: Don Abrams                      Supported By: Dennis Staelgraeve

A motion was made to recommend to the Township Board approval of the new Zoning Map and the final draft of the new Zoning Ordinance with the changes discussed in Sections 5.01, 4.05, and 4.39.

Roll Call:      Thoma-Y Staelgraeve-Y Dotson-Y Collins-Y Abrams-Y Calkins-Y  
Venier-Y  
7-Yes votes    0-No    MUC

**Item No. 5 Administrative Update**

Mr. Calkins had no report as ZBA had no cases and did not meet.

Mr. Collins shared the Township Board is pleased with the job Mr. Dahl is doing so far. He also informed the members that Mr. Dave Uhl is the newly hired Economic Development and Public Safety Director.

Chairman Thoma asked Mr. Dahl to follow up on the dumping of millings and blacktop on N. Monroe Street. Mr. Dahl stated there is currently a permit for fill, however he feels the amount is exceeded and he will follow up on amount as well as materials being dumped.

**Motion**

Moved By: Don Abrams    Supported By: Dennis Staelgraeve                          MUC

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M.