

Florence Township Long-Range Planning Commission

Minutes – 2/12/2007

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jan Bruce at 7:05 pm. Members present were Jan Bruce, Kristen Eide-Tollefson, Ben Boege, and Brian Schreiber. Members not present were Vern Genzlinger and Rick Janka. A quorum was present. Also present were Brian Jacobson and Ember Johnson.

Minutes of the 1/08/07 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Motion by Kristen, seconded by Jan.

Unfinished Business: Ben Boege, 33231 Co. Rd 5 Blvd, Lake City was welcomed as a new member of the Township Planning Commission. His term will be for years 2007 – 2009.

No other unfinished business was discussed.

New Business: Brian Jacobson and Ember Johnson, 31144 – 335th St., Lake City presented a plan to start a new business – Natural Fibers of Minnesota. The business would be processing (cleaning, carding, combing) wool and animal hairs to be used to make rugs, blankets, yarn, and felt. They would be producing some of these products on their property, but most of the raw materials would be dropped off by other producers for conditioning.

They need to construct a 30 by 40 building on their property to house the operation. The site they want to use will be too close to the property line, so they are asking for a variance to place the building closer to the property line than what the zoning ordinance allows.

The Planning Commission did grant a Preliminary Approval for the new business and suggested that Brian and Ember prepare a folder detailing their plans and present it to the Township Board at their February 26 meeting. The Planning Commission also noted that this type of business is encouraged in Florence Township as mentioned in the Township Comp Plan – Chapter 5, Section 1B which states: “Support agriculture as a lifestyle for the pursuit of small-scale agri-business, hobby farms, specialty animals and crops as well as conventional crops and livestock.”

With no other business items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Motion by Kristen, seconded by Ben. Motion accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Schreiber
Recording Secretary