

Bridgeton Township Planning Commission

Minutes of May 28, 2024 meeting

BTPC (PC): At the Township building: CC Hopf (Chair) and Roger Keller; and Michael Doyle on Zoom.

Members of the public at the Township Building: Mark Bryan, Carlos Corretero, Joan Fullerton, and Walt Gaibler; and on Zoom: Gabrielle and Eric Wallace.

I. Call to order

CC Hopf called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm. The meeting was in person at the township building and virtual via Zoom.

There was no public comment on the published agenda.

II. Review of March 26, 2024 meeting minutes.

The draft minutes from the March 26, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Per Roberts Rules of order, C.C. Hopf certified the Minutes as written. There were no comments. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Roger Keller and seconded by Mike Doyle.

III. New Business

A proposed draft ordinance amending the Bridgeton Township Zoning Ordinance to permit and regulate keeping and raising chickens as an accessory use was reviewed. Roger Keller proposed that instead of a new ordinance, the goals could be achieved by adding to the existing Section 11 re "animals as pets". Roger mentioned the relevance of the State Clean Stream Law (from 1937) in limiting the number of fowl per acre. Roger provided a document incorporating his proposal into Section 11.

It was agreed to: remove the keeping of fowl shall require minimum lot area of 2 acres in the existing zoning, section 11 and replace this with a minimum lot area of three quarters (.75) acre; on lots less than three quarters (.75) acre keeping and raising chickens is prohibited. On three quarters (.75) acre to 1 acre: 4 chickens; for each additional quarter (.25) acre one additional chicken up to a maximum of 12 chickens.

Maintaining more than 12 chickens beyond 3 acres is no longer considered under this section of zoning for regulation and must be regulated by alternate sections for husbandry or livestock of the ordinance as applies.

CC Hopf recommended that there should be a setback to locate the chicken enclosure at least 100 ft from a wellhead.

These recommendations were agreed to (3/0) and the draft of changes to Section 11 forwarded

to the BOS as an Action Item document.

IV. BT Planning Commissioners Comments

None

V. Public Comments

Walt Gaibler questioned the status of the proposed new ordinance on Short Term Rentals. CC Hopf responded that the documentation from the PC review of the proposed ordinance and the PC's consequent recommendations to the BOS had been forwarded to the BOS after the March 26th meeting. She reminded that the PC only reviews and recommends – the final decisions rest with the BOS.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further comments from the public and none from PC members, Roger Keller moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by CC Hopf and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8.25 pm.

Michael Doyle