BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 5, 2021

Members Present: Jack Caughey, Dave Falsetta, Jeff Locke, Ben Kudwa, Joy Suits,

Maureen Sorbet, and Barbara Wickerham

Absent: Chris Tennes

Others who attended the Meeting:

Gary Suits-Benton Township Supervisor, Tammy Foster-Zoning Administrator, Roger Wickerham, Adam Auvenshine, Haley Auvenshine, and Isla Auvenshine.

Call to Order:

Chairman Jack Caughey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Caughey led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Minutes Approval:

A motion was made by Maureen Sorbet, supported by Jeff Locke to approve the minutes of July 8, 2021. Motion carried 7 ayes; 0 nays.

Additions to Agenda: None

Public Comment Non-Agenda Items:

None

New Business:

1. Adam and Haley Auvenshine Site Plan Review: Hidden Creek Farms is presenting a plan for the construction of four (4) 10’x10’ rustic cabins on their property for use as accommodations for their overnight wedding parties. The cabins will not be served by any utilities and are installed as slab-on-grade construction without a foundation. However, bathroom facilities are available at the barn venue. Tammy Foster, the Township Zoning Administrator, gave an overview of the site plan. Adam and Haley Auvenshine gave additional information and answered the Commissioners’ questions. There was also an issue regarding the cabins delivered before the permit was granted. It was the Commission’s opinion that no fine would be levied because prior permits were approved by Eaton County and the authorizing permit application was in the process of changing from the County to the Township.

Ben Kudwa made a motion, supported by Jeff Locke to approve the Auvenshine’s site permit and dispense of any fines. Roll call vote: M. Sorbet-yes; Jack Caughey-yes; Ben Kudwa-yes; Joy Suits-yes; Jeff Locke-yes; Dave Falsetta -yes; Barb Wickerham-yes. Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

1. Master Plan Progress Update: Tammy Foster gave the Commission an update on the Master Plan Survey. She was optimistic that the Township should get additional surveys turned in during the next couple of weeks. Tammy will provide another update next month.
2. Review of Interim Zoning Ordinance, pages 67-100. The Commission went page by page to make any corrections needed in the Interim Zoning Ordinance. For the September meeting the Commissioners will review pages 101-140.

Public Comment: None

Next meeting scheduled for September 9, 2021

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:06

Meeting minutes by: Barbara Wickerham, Planning Commission Secretary