

Crow Wing Township Planning Commission Meeting June 13, 2022, 6:00 PM

Commission Members Present: Brad Arnold (Chair), and Commissioners Linda Schuety and Dan Lee Amanda Peterson (Planning and Zoning Administrator), & Sue Kern (Township clerk). Tucker Schuety and David Nelson were absent.

Brad called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearings: None.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: Brad moved the Owned Storage 371 landscaping plan review to later in the agenda as a possible site visit might be required.

Open Forum: None.

Approval of Minutes: Linda made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Dan seconded. Brad made mention of a minor typo. Motion passed 3-0.

New Business: There was a complaint received regarding Traxler property at 7792 Joshua Lane stating that a pit of junk/debris is present. Amanda has talked to them and drove by to observe. The problem will be resolved within the next 30 days. Amanda had sent a letter. Amanda will follow up.

There was a citizen complaint regarding the Plante property with a vehicle and a pile of wood possibly in the Right of Way. Amanda had sent them a letter. There has been no response. It appears it is right on the line of ROW. Carol Wermter stated the road is on the homeowner's property, so he owns the ditch. The owner has passed away and the son is currently living there. Brad felt the complaint is just "splitting hairs". Linda stated she measured it and the truck is totally on his own property and the wood is not but is right on the edge. It was noted that the street measurement could be off as well. Brad will talk to Dustin when he sees him.

The Jackson complaint for parcel #56270517 just came in late Friday afternoon by the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office regarding campers on the property. The neighboring residents stated the Sheriff's department wanted to have information of ordinances being broken specifically regarding camping. The Sheriff Department strongly stated to not to do a site visit. There is one camper that has only recently popped up but one that has been there more than 8 months from last summer. The owner of the property, Ronnie Jackson, is in poor health. The campers are entering from both ends of the property. They do not have additional entry permits and there has been extensive traffic coming and going all winter with tracks in the snow. There have been as many as 20-30 cars there at a time with out of state license plates. Debris is starting to accumulate. The Sheriff's department questioned if they have permission of the landowner, and the residents stated the Sheriff's Department was requesting a list of violations. There are 4-6 possible violations. It was stated that this has become a life safety issue and was of utmost importance. Brad stated they are squatting and not the owners. Amanda will do a letter with the current violations including lack of driveway entry permit, violation of junk ordinances, camping violations past the 14-day window, and violations of structures being put up without permits. She will call the Sheriff and request assistance. Additionally, a neighbor has recorded unidentified people on a trail camera within 30 feet of their property. The township camping ordinance was discussed.

Old Business: The Ream Complaint was discussed. Brad and Mary have been unable to meet for a site visit. Brad will follow up.

The Jillson complaint was discussed. Brad said the owner has a hearing coming up July 12th. They have not heard from the probation officer. The property needs to be cleaned up to meet a work visa. Amanda will email Kristin regarding what needs to be done.

The Anderson Schuety septic noncompliance was discussed. The attorney wrote a letter stating that she did not feel a cease desist was the proper channel to proceed with. The attorney thinks there should be a civil lawsuit started which could cost several thousand dollars. Further, the matter should be run by the township board and the planning commission. It was decided that an initial contact from the attorney may be enough to get their attention and it will be sent to both owner and the occupants. The matter will be brought to the township board.

The Deason shoreland violation was discussed. Twenty trees have been planted and Justin and Amanda have visited the site. It is noted that the trees must stay alive for two years. It was decided that semi annual site visits will need to occur to monitor the health of the trees.

Bigwood Enterprises complaint was discussed. There has been no response to the letter. There is a pile of scrap metal, a brush pile, and a debris pile. Some items were moved to the back of the building. His clean-up is short of what is expected. Another letter will be sent.

The Owned Storage 371 landscaping plan was reviewed. The applicants and owner of adjacent property were present. It has been discovered that there is an encroachment in the driveway. Brad has met on site with Carol and Mike. There is a storage shed that was moved on to Carol's property. The applicants are offering an easement to Carol to resolve the driveway encroachment problem. The property line is not where it was thought to be. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the plan needed to add some verbiage regarding trees and fencing. The fence has already been staked out to show the exact location. The applicant will legally give an easement to the benefit of the property owner where there is encroachment in the driveway. The lighting will be down on the applicant's side and the added buffering of fence and trees should block light from the residence. The fence will be done at the end of the month with tree planting to follow. Dan made a motion to approve the landscaping design as written with execution of an easement at the applicant's expense to the property owner's benefit including future owners that they agreed to sign and record; additionally including 11 needle bearing coniferous trees of 6-8' in height staggered as allowable, 225' of linear cedar fencing 6' high but not more than 6.5' stained in a natural color (tan/brown) with the best side to the neighbor and a minimum of 6 deciduous trees (silver maple) of 3" caliber on the west side is added to the presented landscaping plan. Linda seconded the motion. Further discussion included the easement. Motion passed 3-0. Amanda will do the necessary paperwork for the town board's next meeting.

P&Z Administrator's Report: Amanda presented her report. The Childcare facility is not ready to move forward.

There was additional discussion regarding the proposed Camping ordinance verbiage. Pros and cons were discussed. Amanda will do more research and come back with proper language.

Adjournment: Linda made a motion to adjourn. Dan seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

