

MORRISON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

July 27, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Morrison County Planning Commission held a public hearing and regular monthly meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Regular Members Present: Dave Stish, Frances Brisk, Brent Lindgren, Clint Kathrein and Earl Fuechtmann

Regular Members Absent: None

Commissioners Present: Mike Wilson, Mike LeMieur, Jeff Jelinski, Randy Winscher and Greg Blaine

Commissioners Absent: None

Ex-Officio Members Present: Amy Kowalzek, Zach Skwira and Sharon Peterson

Chairman Dave Stish called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

1. Jason & Tammie Leibold – 8253 Imperial Rd; Royalton, MN 56373 – Application for an Interim Use Permit for a Limited Rural Business specifically for wood sales; located in pt. of SW ¼, Section 12, Township 39, Range 32, Bellevue Township.

Amy Kowalzek entered into record Sections 604.8 and 1211.4 of the Morrison County Land Use Control Ordinance, a plat map with parcel location, the Interim Use Permit Request, Interim Use Criteria Questions, letter from the applicant, site plan, two (2) aerial photos, staff report, aerial photo showing surrounding zoning districts, aerial photo showing Mississippi River easement on the property, zoomed out aerial showing surrounding zoning and reminder that an Interim Use Permit must have an end date. There were 27 notices sent to neighboring property owners. There was no comment received prior to the hearing. Amy entered the Interim Use Permit Questions.

Jason Leibold were present

Jason Leibold stated they process wood & stack it outside for one year then it goes in the buildings. We would like to add a few more buildings to cut the cost of fuel and labor.

Dave Stish asked if there was a change in the business. Jason Leibold stated they are not expanding. They cannot stack wood right away or it will mold.

Clint Katherine asked if the buildings would be enclosed. Jason Leibold stated that the buildings would be pole style buildings with cattle panels on the sides, the wood needs all the air flow possible.

Frances Brisk asked where the wood comes from. Jason Leibold stated that a logging company in Motley, MN. We try to get all the wood from local resources. Frances asked what kind of wood they get. Jason stated oak, birch and some basswood.

Dave Stish asked if there is a runoff plan. Jason Leibold stated there are gutters that direct the water to the hay field or underground. Dave asked if the water goes to the easement area. Jason stated it does, the structures are 200 feet from the river. So, the water goes to the woods, tall grasses and the permanent easement.

Audience Comment:

Shannon Wettstein – SWCD – stated she would like the water to be infiltrated before getting to the river.

The voting sheets were polled.

A motion was made by Clint Katherine to recommend approval of this request with condition. The motion was seconded by Brent Lindgren. The vote was all in favor.

The application will go in front of the Morrison County Board of Commissioners on August 11, 2020.

2. Scherping Dairy LLC/Robert Scherping – 3592 158th St; Little Falls, MN 56345 – Application for Conditional Use Permit to expand existing feedlot within the same Tier; located in pt. of N ½ of Section 16 and pt. of S ½ of Section 9, Township 129, Range 31, Culdrum Township.

Amy Kowalzek entered into record Section 507.4 of the Morrison County Land Use Control Ordinance, a plat map with parcel location, the Conditional Use Permit Request, Conditional Use Criteria Questions, site plan, aerial photo, staff report and an aerial photo showing land to be purchased. There were 32 notices sent to neighboring property owners. There was one comment received prior to the hearing. Amy entered the Conditional Use Criteria Questions.

Brian Scherping and Jeff Bauman (Anez Consulting) were present

Amy Kowalzek stated the this is an amendment to the existing Conditional Use Permit. This would be adding two parcels to the Conditional Use Permit.

Dave Stish asked by adding land now will the old buildings meet the setbacks. Jeff Bauman stated that he is guessing that now the harvesters would now meet the setbacks. Brian Scherping stated we purchased the property to the north so the structures should be meeting the setbacks. Dave asked if they own the land currently. Brian stated they closed on the land the past Friday.

Audience Comment:

Shannon Wettstein stated this is a very neat and orderly farm. It is managed very well.

The voting sheets were polled.

A motion was made by Earl Fuechtmann to recommend approval of this request with condition. The motion was seconded by Brent Lindgren. The vote was all in favor.

The application will go in front of the Morrison County Board of Commissioners on August 11, 2020.

3. Michael Schirmers – 29790 83rd St; Pierz, MN 56364 – Application for a Conditional Use Permit to expand to a Tier III swine feedlot; located in pt of SW ¼, Section 11, Township 39, Range 30, Buckman Township.

Amy Kowalzek entered into record Section 604.6 of the Morrison County Land Use Control Ordinance, a plat map with parcel location, the Conditional Use Permit Request, Conditional Use Criteria Questions, site plan, aerial photo, survey of proposed property to be purchased, staff report and an aerial photo showing surrounding wetlands. There were 29 notices sent to neighboring property owners. There was one comment received prior to the hearing. Amy entered the Conditional Use Permit Questions.

Mike Schirmers was present

Earl Fuechtmann asked where the cattle pasture in the summer. Mike Schirmers stated they were on the area that was working up. This area was worked and planted. Earl asked if the cattle could cross the Buckman Creek. Mike stated they are. Earl asked if the cows graze near the woods. Mike stated that was correct. Frances Brisk stated she thought that cattle were not allowed in the water.

Shannon Wettstein stated she was on-site the cattle area was east of the barn, this area is now green. The Buckman Creek runs to the Little Rock Creek. Keeping the cattle 200 feet from the creek and having a 200-foot grass buffer is important.

Zach Skwira stated that he was on-site for an inspection and the open lot is now green.

Earl Fuechtmann asked if the cattle cross the creek at will. Mike Schirmers stated that was correct. Shannon Wettstein stated that her office can work with farmers to put up barriers. On site we did not notice any erosion. The Soil & Water office would suggest that the cattle crossing be put in place if they are moving across the creek at will.

Clint Katherine asked if the new barn was to be built precisely to meet setback requirements. Shannon Wettstein stated that it is a matter of about 10 feet for the wetlands, property lines and feedlot setbacks. Shannon stated that the structure will need to be precisely staked and built to meet the setbacks.

Clint Katherine asked if the additional land was purchased yet and is the site staked. Mike Schirmers stated that they have not closed on the land yet. The paper work is at the abstract company. The site will be staked out by Anez Consulting. Jeff Bauman stated they will need to reconfigure the barn location do to the wetland. This was discovered at the time of the environmental review. We will go back out to the site with our GPS and stake it.

Brent Lindgren stated that the 200' suggestions maybe possible conditions. Mike Schirmers stated he would be ok with the fencing, buffers and the crossing. There are about 20 to 30 cows in this area. Shannon Wettstein stated she would suggest that the animals are not allowed to feed within 200 feet of the creek by the barn. If the cattle are allowed to cross the creek adding an exclusion fence and crossing for the cattle.

Amy Kowalzek stated she would also suggest that Zack Skwira be on site with Anez Consulting to stake and measure for the barn.

Clint Katherine asked if the buffer rules changed. Amy Kowalzek stated the SWCD office deals with the violations. Shannon Wettstein stated the that buffer laws are the same as they have been. It states 50 feet from public waters, the areas that are black would not comply. This site goes beyond that, cattle behind the barn would not meet MN Farm rules. This is what the PCA uses to determine compliance on feedlots. The slope, watershed and the lot all get calculated for feedlots. In order to pass the lot area would need to be smaller or make it green all year round.

Dave Stish asked what type of road leads to the hog barn. Mike Schirmers stated a Township Road (83rd St). The driveway goes right to the barn, we already filed to fill the wetland. This seems to be ok.

Clint Kathrein stated the lot east of the barn needs to be fixed. Amy Kowalzek stated there needs to be a 200' buffer. Clint stated this would meet all standards.

Audience Comment:

Shannon Wettstein – SWCD – stated they should be able to meet all setbacks, and this would be a good location for the barn. The fixes only need to be on the existing site.

Jim Meyer – stated that the Township should have input on this. The applicant should have had to go to a Township meeting. The other land is not purchased yet. This should be denied and sent back to the Township. I can see the cattle going into the creek. Buckman Creek is very susceptible to drainage from the land.

Dave Stish stated that the County Board meeting is the next step for this application.

Frances Brisk asked if the Township was notified and attended the DRT meeting. Amy Kowalzek stated that the Township was notified multiple times and did attend the DRT meeting. The Land Services Department does the zoning for all the Townships within the County. This was the Townships decision.

The voting sheets were polled.

A motion was made by Brent Lindgren to recommend approval of this request with conditions. The motion was seconded by Clint Katherine. The vote was all in favor.

The application will go in front of the Morrison County Board of Commissioners on August 11, 2020.

The public hearing was closed at 9:40 p.m.

A motion was made by Brent Lindgren to approve the June 22, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Dave Stish. The vote was all in favor.

Correspondence – None

Old Business – None

New Business – None

A motion was made by Brent Lindgren to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Frances Brisk. The vote was all in favor.

With no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kowalzek, Secretary
Morrison County Planning Commission