

MORRISON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

November 23, 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, Clint Kathrein, Brent Lindgren and Earl Fuechtmann

Regular Members Absent: None

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Ex-Officio Members Present: Amy Kowalzek and Sharon Peterson

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

1. Kevin & Lisa Smude – 34353 213th St; Hillman, MN 56338 – Application for an Interim Use Permit to establish a Limited Rural Business to process wild game; located in pt of NW ¼, Section 01, Township 41, Range 29, Granite Township.

Amy Kowalzek entered into record Section 604.8 of the Morrison County Land Use Control Ordinance, a plat map with parcel location, the Interim Use Permit Request, Interim Use Criteria Questions, facility requirement from the applicant, two (2) site plans, three (3) aerial photos, staff report, requirements for processing wild game statement from the state, figure 2 (add from applicant), figure 3 (stop work order from Land Services), aerial photo showing surrounding zoning and suggested conditions. There were 16 notices sent to neighboring property owners. There was one comment received from the County Engineer prior to the hearing. Amy entered the Interim Use Criteria Questions.

Kevin Smude was present.

Kevin Smude stated they have purchased a walk-in cooler to chill the meat.

Dave Stish asked to explain the difference between a Home Extended Business and a Limited Rural Business. Amy Kowalzek stated that a Home Extended Business is when the applicant lives on site.

Dave Stish asked for some background information on the business. Kevin Smude stated he has worked for others in the meat processing business in the past. Thought about starting my own business. Talked with RJ's and asked if they would like to work together in this process.

Clint Katherine asked about the license form the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Kevin Smude stated he has talked with Eric from the MDA and found out what my requirements are to run the business. Clint asked what is required. Kevin stated a sink for meat and one for washing hands. A tank requirement for the water. Electricity for the building. A cooler for the meat storage. Storage of the deer that come in.

Brent Lindgren asked about the grey water holding tank and the service of this. What will be done with the hides? How many deer in one season? Kevin Smude stated they would pump the tank twice per week. Kevin stated they would work with a hide dealer. They would come twice per week to pick up the hides. We would be looking at about 70 deer per season.

Earl Feuchtmann stated the assumption is that no deer processing happened this season. Kevin Smude stated

they had planned on this season. I thought I was following the rules and then I talked with Eric at Minnesota Department of Agriculture and he stated that they do not give the permission to start. This would come from the Land Services Department. We got a stop work order from the Land Services Department that we did not have permission to start this season. We stopped taking deer at that point.

Frances Brisk asked what happens to the carcasses? Kevin Smude stated that the carcasses will go to the Morrison County Land Fill. Frances asked if the new deer coming in would be in the same area as the ones that have already been skinned. Kevin Smude stated they take the deer as they come in and keep the space between them is accurate, so they do not over heat. Dave Stish asked if the hided deer and skinned deer be hanging in the same place. Kevin stated they will not. Dave asked if the hides will be in the same place as the other deer. Kevin stated they hides will be in a container separate from the deer. Dave asked if the tank will be above ground or below ground. Kevin stated this will depend on the height of the building. Amy Kowalzek stated they will need a septic design for the tank and due to the winter weather most tanks will be below ground.

Dave Stish asked how many vehicles could fit on the property at one time. Kevin Smude stated about 10, there should be enough room. Dave asked if people can just drop off or will they need an appointment. Kevin stated that most will need an appointment, so we make sure we are there and get keep track of the deer coming in.

Audience Comment:

Allan Welle stated most of his questions were answered. Mostly concerned that no animals will be disposed of on the property. Wondering who oversees this to make sure this does not happen. Amy Kowalzek stated that both the Land Services Department along with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. That is what the conditions will regulate.

Dave Stish asked about record keeping and if this could be a requirement through a condition. Amy Kowalzek stated that is a condition that could be added that the applicant maintains records of all activities in the business. This could be through keeping receipts and records of the pumping, disposal and processing of the deer. Kevin Smude stated that he would be ok with this being a condition.

The voting sheets were polled.

Dave Stish asked if there is any thought of adding other animals for processing. Kevin Smude stated he would like to just stick with wild game.

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 December 10, 2020.

The public hearing was closed at 7:53 p.m.

A motion was made by Frances Brisk to approve the October 26, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Dave Stish. The vote was all in favor.

Correspondence – None

Old Business – Dave Stish asked about the removal of part of the condition for the Myron Czech conditional use permit from last month. Mike Wilson stated the County Board did not feel like it was the responsibility of the applicant to be responsible for the road. Amy Kowalzek stated our jurisdiction stops at the right of way of the road.

Clint Katherine stated he is happy the County Board removed the road responsibly from the applicant. Dave Stish stated he agrees. How do we answer this question in the future when there is someone asking about the wear and tear of the road? Clint stated that he does not think that farm equipment is excessive burden on the roads. Mike Wilson stated he believes each parcel has it own burden of the roads.

Amy Kowalzek stated that from this point if the County Board differs from the Planning Commission's proposal, she will update the Planning Commission members via e-mail.

Greg Blaine stated the Planning Commission does not have the authority on the happenings of Township Roads. The farming operations will continue to get larger and when this happens they pay more taxes and part of those fees goes toward the maintenance of the roads.

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 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kowalzek, Secretary
Morrison County Planning Commission