

**Barnesville Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Barnesville Planning Commission was called to order by Chairman Merlin Strom at 6:35 p.m.

Members present: Mike Detloff, Steve Mortensen, Merlin Strom, Pat Berndt, Matthew Wever, and Karen Lauer, Zoning Administrator.

Member absent: Margaret Follingstad , Paul Karsnia, and Mike Osten.

Others present: Roland Holm, Mike Rietz, Don Sakry and Pam Aakre of the Barnesville Record-Review.

AGENDA

11-02-09-01 Motion by Berndt and seconded by Mortensen to approve the agenda. Unanimously carried.

MINUTES

11-02-09-02 Motion by Detloff and seconded by Mortensen to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2009 meeting. Unanimously carried.

RIGHT-OF-WAY UPDATE

Karen Lauer reviewed the information on right-of-ways from the League of Minnesota Cities. Lauer will continue to look for model right-of-way ordinances from other cities with a goal of developing a right-of-way ordinance for Barnesville. The City needs to be concerned with liability issues in regard to right-of-ways and conversations with City department heads indicated a need for an ordinance for utility easements. The City Attorney agreed it would be good to have an ordinance and possibly one ordinance to cover planning and zoning, right-of-way, and utility easements. Lauer will bring further information to a future meeting.

REVIEW OF ACCESSORY BUILDING ORDINANCE

Karen Lauer led the Planning Commission in reviewing the questions that Roland Holm has encountered. Discussion revolved around whether or not the current ordinance addresses the issues or if modifications need to be made to the current ordinance. Holm indicated there is a hole in our ordinance for smaller structures. Holm indicated there could be a two-story storage shed with a 16' maximum height. Holm also indicated that the building code gives no guidance on anchoring buildings that are less than 120 square feet. The commission members also discussed concerns with animals under sheds and whether or not all sheds should have a narrow footing. The footing would keep animals from digging under the building and the building could also be anchored to the concrete footing. Holm stated his belief that the maximum allowable height of a shed needs to be stated in the ordinance. The current ordinance indicated a maximum height of 16 feet. Commission members agreed this height is OK for structure that is greater than 150 square feet. The roof and siding of this structure should be close to or similar to the primary residence. Structures that are 150 square feet or less should be limited to a height of 10 feet at the peak and the roof and siding can vary from the primary residence. Commission members also felt it would be beneficial to create a definition for a shed. Lauer will begin working ordinance language for anchoring structures and animal control under sheds.

ACCESSORY BUILDINGS IN SIDE YARDS

Karen Lauer reviewed the accessory building ordinance language regarding the issue of accessory buildings in side yards from Detroit Lakes. Lauer will incorporate the language into the proposed building ordinance language changes.

CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONER OPENING

Planning Commission members are to encourage individuals to apply for the open seat. The opening has been advertised in the newspaper and in the City newsletter. Karen Lauer indicated she has had one inquiry. The candidates will be interviewed at the December meeting.

VACANT BUILDING DISCUSSION

Roland Holm indicated there are currently seven buildings that are being assessed the \$400 per year fee for a vacant building. One fee has been paid at this time. Some of the buildings are being well maintained and appear to have someone living in them. Other buildings have maintenance and nuisance issues. The City has been doing lawn maintenance at some of the buildings.

BUILDING PERMIT LIST

Buildings permits for October 2009 were reviewed.

The next Planning Commission meeting is Monday, December 7, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

11-02-09-03 Motion by Mortensen and seconded by Detloff to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Unanimously carried.

Submitted by:

Pat Berndt
Planning Commission Secretary