**Powell Township**

**P.O. Box 319, Big Bay, MI. 49808**

**Planning Commission - Regular Meeting Minutes**

**July 17, 2019**

**~~DRAFT, NOT FOR PULICATION~~**

Approved 08/21/2019

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:**

FAYE BOWERS CALLED THE Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m AT THE Township Hall.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Roll Call:**

**Members present** – Laura Mohrman, Doris Childers, Denise Hudson, Carol

Burns, Faye Bowers, and Phil Moran.

**Members absent** –

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to accept the June 2019 minutes (Bowers/Childers/CARRIED)

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve (Childers/Burns/CARRIED)

**Public Hearing:**

At 6:35 pm, Bowers MOVED TO SUSPEND THE REGULAR MEETING AND OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE BUSH/BAKKER FAMILY REQUEST TO CREATE A PRIVATE CEMETERY ON THEIR PROPERTY ABUTTING CO. RD. 550, NEAR LITTLE TREE CABINS. Carol Burns seconded the motion. All members agreed.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR Howard Robare INTRODUCED THE FAMILY MEMBERS AND SUMMARIZED THEIR PROPOSAL FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO CREATE A PRIVATE cemetery on a small piece of the Bakker/Bush property. The property is currently ZONED RR5.

ADRIAN Bakker, 8180 Co Rd 550, presented a written document explaining the family proposal – THE LAND WOULD BE SURVEYED AND PLACED ON A TAX-EXEMPT, TRIANGULAR SHAPED PIECE OF LAND THAT ABUTS CO RD 550 AND THAT BAKKER SAYS IS THE SITE OF PREVIOUS FATAL ACCIDENTS AND ROAD RUNOFF. IT WOULD BE A LITTLE LESS THAN ONE acre. THERE WOULD BE NO signs, no head stones, BUT POSSIBLY SMALL MARKERS PLACED ON EACH GRAVE AS WELL AS AN APPLE TREE, EVENTUALLY CREATING AN APPLE ORCHARD. THE CORPSES WOULD BE BURIED IN pine boxes, SIX FEET UNDER.

SEVERAL NEIGHBORS ATTENDED AND PRESENTED THEIR CONCERNS:

Pat Marion, 8200 Co Rd 550,. neighbor of the proposed cemetery, questioned which driveway THE PROPOSED CEMETERY ABUTTED, AND THE FAMILY ANSWERED THAT IT IS THE old road to Little Tree Cabins. MARION STATED HE HAD CONCERNS AND QUESTIONED WHETHER THE PROPOSED CEMETERY MIGHT AFFECT SURROUNDING PROPERTY VALUES.

Sharon Guidebeck, 8220 CO Rd 550, said SHE “IS NOT THRILLED WITH THE IDEA” AND EXPRESSED concerns about THE AFFECT THE PROPOSED CEMETERY WOULD HAVE ON SURROUNDING property values, AS WELL AS THE permanency of it.

Daniel Pentecost, 8170 Co Rd 550 SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAS reservations ABOUT THE “IDEA OF BURIALS THERE,” HE WANTS THE BAKKER/BUSH FAMILY to be able to do as they choose ON THEIR OWN LAND. HE ASKED THAT IF THE CONDIITIONAL USE PERMIT IS APPROVED THAT THE FAMILY ERECT A FENCE ALONG THE SIDE ABUTTING HIS PROPERTY. MR. BAKER REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD GO IN HALF ON SUCH A FENCE.

Hillary Bush SAID THEIR FAMILY IS not trying to make it a big deal, BUT THEY WANT TO KEEP THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS TOGETHER TO PROTECT THEIR ANCESTRY LINE.

VARIOUS BOARD MEMBERS ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ISSUES THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, INCLUDING WHETHER IT WAS PROPER TO CREATE A PARCEL LESS THAN ONE ACRE IN AN RR5 ZONED DISTRICT, HOW MANY GRAVES WOULD BE CONTAINED ON THE PLOT, AND HOW AFTER PERHAPS THE BUSH/BAKKER LINE DIES OUT OR LEAVES THE AREA WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO THE CEMETERY PLOT. THE FAMILY ANSWERED THAT IT WOULD REVERT TO POWELL TOWNSHIP OWNERSHIP.

BOWERS MOVED to table THE CEMETERY ISSUE until the next meeting. BURNS seconded, AND the motion carried.

BOWERS MOVED to adjourn the public meeting at 7:00 pm AND RETURN TO THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED PC MEETING. Burns Seconded, and the Motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Election of officers:**

Carol Burns MOVED to elect Faye Bowers as Chairperson seconded, AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Doris Childers MOVED to elect Carol Burns AS Vice Chairperson, Faye Bowers seconded, AND THE Motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

Faye Bowers MOVED to elect Laura Mohrman as Secretary, Carol Burns seconded, and the motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

**Jason McCarthy**

MCCARTHY gave each PC MEMBER a binder to keep COPIES OF HIS PROPOSED CHANGES/UPDATES TO THE CURRENT TWP MASTERPLAN. HE RESTATED HIS AIM TO MAKE THE MP smaller and more concise. MCCARTHY ALSO STATED that HE WILL PROVIDE THE PC WITH HIS PROPOSED CHANGES FOR SECTION 4, ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS, BY WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14, ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED PC MEETING. THAT WAY, PC MEMBERS WILL HAVE TIME TO STUDY HIS PROPSED CHANGES AND SUBMIT THEIR FEEDBACK AT THE NEXT MEETING. IN ADDITION, MCCARTHY ACCEPTED BOWERS’ FIXES FOR THE FIRST SECTIONS HE HAD PROVIDED THE PC IN THE SPRING. HE WILL UPDATE THAT SECTION AND RESUBMIT IT TO THE PC ALONG WITH SECTION 4.

MCCARTHY AND THE PC MEMBERS DISCUSSED HOW BEST TO INCLUDE PUBLIC INPUT IN THE UPDATED MASTERPLAN. WE DISCUSSED A COMMUNITY MEETING/OPEN HOUSE TO BE HELD BEFORE SUMMER RESIDENTS LEAVE THE AREA, AS WELL AS HAVING A HAND-OUT SURVEY (COPY OF THAT SUBMITTED BY DENISE HUDSON INCLUDED WITH THE MINUTES). MCCARTHY SAID THAT HE WOULD HELP WITH MAPS WHERE RESIDENTS COULD PLACE STICKY NOTES WITH IDEAS/SUGGESTIONS, ETC.

**New Business:**

**Public Comment:** Hillary Bush wanted to add that the conditions/RESTRICTIONS FOR THEIR CEMETERY USE are up to THE PC.

Richard Robinson (DID ANYONE GET HIS ADDRESS?) asked if there was written processes for zoning appeals and how the process works.

IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT this is found on pages 78 & 79, section 904, OF THE PT ZONING ORDINANCE BOOK.

**Board Discussion:**

Faye Bowers stated that we have 2 new members Phil Moran, and Nick Korstad

**Next Meeting:** Regular Meeting – August 21, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the Township Hall.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made to adjourn 7:29 at (Childers /Bowers/CARRIED)

Respectfully submitted

Laura Mohrman

Secretary