



Village of Galena ZONING AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2012

The Zoning and Planning Commission of the Village of Galena met on Wednesday January 18, 2012 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 9 West Columbus Street, Galena, Ohio. Present were members; President Tom Hopper, Nancy Feole, Stan Swisher, Mark Brooks and Mike Bragalone. Also present were Zoning Inspector Scott Jamison, Zoning Clerk Sally Hopper and visitor Larry Mullins. The meeting was officially called to order at 7:09 PM.

Member Mark Brooks was sworn into a new three year term by Mayor Hopper.

Copies of the minutes from the last meeting of October 19, 2011 had been distributed to all members by the Clerk. The November and December meetings had been cancelled for lack of new business. A motion to approve the minutes, as presented, was made by Mark Brooks, seconded by Stan Swisher and passed unanimously.

Village Council at their last meeting had charged the Commission with investigating and recommending a course of action on the subject of hunting and the use of firearms for limited purposes on certain parcels within the Village limits. The Commission opened a discussion on the issue. Property owner Larry Mullins was present and told the Commission of the need to allow hunting on the large parcels in the Village that are still in use for agricultural production. Without hunting to reduce the deer and other nuisance animals the crops will suffer excessive loss and damage and make the parcels impossible to farm. There followed a lengthy discussion between Mr. Mullins, staff and the Commission on the merits and technical matters related to allowing such action which is currently forbidden by Section 137.09 (E) of the Ohio Basic Code which has been adopted by the Village for many years. At the end of the discussion the following recommendation to Council was produced:

The Zoning and Planning Commission recommends to Council that an exemption to the requirements of Ohio Basic Code Section 137.09 (E) be granted for parcels meeting the following conditions and terms:

1. Parcels within the Village must be a minimum of 40 acres and zoned "Agriculture" or are used for an "Agriculture" use as defined by their tax status.
2. Hunting will be allowed for deer and other small animals that will be a nuisance or destructive to the agricultural crops.
3. Hunting will only be allowed by the owner of the property or a person given permission by the owner for the purpose of removing animals as stated above.
4. The owners of agricultural use parcels must make a request to hunt and present a liability insurance policy to the Village that shows the Village is indemnified against loss due to the hunting activity.
5. If a parcel is sold, has its zoning changed, or is subdivided a new application must be made.
6. The weapons allowed for hunting shall be limited to bow, crossbow, black powder muzzle loaders, shotgun and .22 caliber guns.

A motion to recommend and forward the above recommendation to Council was made by Mark Brooks, seconded by Stan Swisher, and passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about current zoning fees. Zoning Inspector Scott Jamison and Assistant Public Service Director Jeanna Burrell have been studying the current fee structure and comparing them with those of surrounding jurisdictions. A number are well below the Village's cost and have not been adjusted since 2001. Mr. Jamison presented a preliminary list of proposed changes for the Commission's review. The plan is to set up a hearing on the proposed changes to the fees at the next meeting.

Zoning Inspector Scott Jamison had issued a written report which is attached and incorporated as part of these minutes. He gave a brief summary of the report. The owner of 24 S. Front Street has been cited for creating a blighting factor and general disrepair of the property. The back of the house has been painted a rather unattractive color and nearby property owners have complained about the appearance of the property. The Village Solicitor has been asked to get the owner served for violations of the Exterior Property Maintenance Code. He also updated the Commission on the Walnut Street Reconstruction Project grant application and work being done on the Geobag project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Columbus Street Lift Station. A pre-bid meeting was held today on the improvement and repair project at the Galena Village Hall. He reported that the Village has budgeted in excess of \$100,000 this year for work on the building. Some of the original projects were trimmed to stay within budget. The roof and site drainage have been given priority to prevent further damage to the building.

The clerk had nothing additional to report.

There was no old business.

There was no new business.

There being no further business before the Commission, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mark Brooks, seconded by Mike Bragalone, and passed unanimously. **The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:00 PM.** The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Clerk

Chairman

CERTIFICATION

I, Sally H. Hopper, Clerk of The Zoning & Planning Commission of the Village of Galena, Ohio do hereby certify that publication of the above MINUTES was duly made by posting true copies thereof at five (5) of the most public places in the Village of Galena as provided for in Ordinance # 99-15 enacted by the Council of the Village of Galena on December 21, 1999.

Sally H. Hopper, Clerk