

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

May 4, 2016

The regular meeting of the Almont Township Zoning Board of Appeals was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Schenburn at the Almont Township/Village Hall, 817/819 N. Main Street, Almont, Michigan. Roll was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Dodge, Larry Malburg, Jerry Moore, David Schenburn, and Clay Stroup.

MEMBERS ABSENT: 0

ALSO PRESENT: 5 guests

MOVED BY DODGE AND SUPPORTED BY STROUP TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 18, 2016 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

Hearing No. 1. Petition 16-003 – DRYDEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Variance from Almont Township Zoning Ordinance No. 39, Article 2, Section 2.21, K.2 – Prohibited signs and E.5 – signs shall have the numerical address listed.

Chairman Schenburn explained meeting procedures.

Mr. Alen Graham from the Dryden Chamber of Commerce was present to explain his request. Mr. Graham noted that the need for the sign was more for public awareness than an advertising sign, though the advertising that was proposed was needed to help pay for the maintenance of the sign. Mr. Graham noted that the sign was to help promote Dryden Village and its businesses, but also to promote General Squier Park and Dryden's churches.

Chairman Schenburn opened the meeting to hear public comment at 7:10 p.m. Members of Dryden's DDA and Chamber of Commerce spoke in favor of the sign noting that it was more of a governmental/community sign than an advertising sign. Hearing no further comments, Chairman Schenburn closed the public comment portion of the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

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Petition 16-003 – DRYDEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Continued:

Lengthy discussion followed between the board members and the applicant. Concern was expressed over allowing for business advertising. Mr. Graham noted that the advertising was necessary to help pay for the maintenance of the sign. Also discussed was the concern that by allowing this sign, other local communities would also want to advertise their local attractions and businesses, which would distract consumers away from Almont. Due to the nature of the request, the Zoning Board of Appeal members requested that the Township Zoning Administrator contact the Township's Planner from ROWE Professional Services and gather information on governmental /community signs.

MOVED BY SCHENBURN AND SUPPORTED BY STROUP TO TABLE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPLICATION 16-003 UNTIL JUNE 6, 2016 THEREBY GIVING THE ZBA MEMBERS SUFFICIENT TIME TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON THIS TYPE OF REQUEST. MOTION CARRIED.

Two more variance requests that were received by the Township were briefly discussed. It was agreed to hold the public hearings on June 6, 2016.

Chairman Schenburn adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ida L. Lloyd

Ida L. Lloyd, Recording Secretary