

ARCADIA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
OCTOBER 19, 2021

A Public Hearing of the Arcadia Township Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at the Arcadia Township Hall, 4900 Spencer Street, Lum, Michigan. Chairperson Lashbrook opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Members present: Lashbrook, Woloszyk, McClelland, Arnold and Poniatowski. Absent: Kennedy, Howe. Others present: Resident Robert Jarrett; Recording Secretary, Teresa Gormley. NOTE: APPLICANT CRAIG FANSON WAS NOT IN ATTENDANCE AS HE WAS EXPOSED TO THE COVID VIRUS. It was decided to hold the Public Hearing so any residents in attendance could be heard and placed on the record. Then this hearing will be tabled to a later date.

MOVED BY Arnold, SECONDED BY Woloszyk, to approve the agenda with a correction at the top. MOTION CARRIED.

Chairperson Lashbrook stated that the Public Hearing will be heard with a determination to be made when the Applicant, Craig Fanson, can be present. Fanson is absent due to being exposed and having symptoms of the Covid virus.

This is a special use grow operation with a maximum number of plants at 72 located at 3131 Bowers Road. Several members of the Planning Commission tried to contact the applicant several times prior to tonight to seek a time for a site review but the applicant did not get back with any of them so a site review could not be arranged.

Poniatowski stated that applicant does not have enough acreage. The lot lines are 15' and needs to be 50'. He needs a variance from the Zoning Board.

Lashbrook referred to the 22 pages that Applicant had emailed the Township Secretary and reminded the Planning Commission to review these documents prior to the next hearing.

Poniatowski added that she thinks applicant's daughter is going to be doing this as well, but they can only be granted one license.

Arnold reminded the Planning Commission that we put in the ordinance that only one license per address be permitted.

Lashbrook referred to the application, stating that she felt the explanation paragraph was lacking...and for the Applicant not to return phone calls from the Planning Commission for a site review was not favorable. Poniatowski did acknowledge receiving a return call on Friday but was told by Fanson he had been exposed to the Corona virus.

Lashbrook added that the paperwork and application does not tell them much. It does not address vents, chemicals, locks and security...and acknowledges the "big red flag" regarding lack of minimum acreage.

Small discussion about where the property is located and what surrounds it.

Lashbrook referred to a letter from Susan Thompson Reichenberg opposing applicant's application. A copy of her letter will be placed on file with these Minutes.

Lashbrook stated that she wants to make it known that the Planning Commission does not have a choice here...they cannot prevent this but they can make restrictions.

Public Time opened at 7:46 am.

Robert Jarrett, 3109 Bowers Road. Stated that he lives next door. He stated that he met the applicant last year and applicant talked about his buildings. He mentioned he wanted to put up another building but did not say why, and Jarrett felt it was none of his business to ask. Jarrett stated that he understands marijuana smells like a skunk. That doesn't bother him as long as it is not constant.

Jarrett wondered how many buildings he was putting up? He stated that he doesn't smoke or drink. He has a concern with how many buildings he will have and how many plants. He would not want to see 3-4 more buildings going up. Jarrett stated that he was looking at the laws and felt that he can grow or he can sell, but not both.

Lashbrook addressed Jarrett's concerns, stating he is allowed 72 plants within specific parameters. Applicant needs an air filtration system, the building needs to be locked and secure. Arnold added that the premises can be inspected by the supervisor or his designee at any time. Lashbrook clarified that if they grant the Home Occupation, it goes with the person and does not stay with the home of the applicant moves. Arnold added that new owners would have to go through the "process".

Jarrett asked if there are any employees? Lashbrook answered no. Jarrett added that he sees cars going in and out of the driveway...he is not opposed to having a business there.

McClelland added that he can be a grower and a seller but he needs to distribute to his customers. Arnold added that applicant can only have five customers who must also be licensed. Lashbrook stated that he cannot start a "pot shop" as that would be commercial, adding that he is allowed 12 plants per person/customer. If he wants to put up another building for farm equipment, we cannot control that.

Arnold stated that with only an acre and a half applicant is very limited.

Public time was closed at 7:56 pm. (There was no one else from the public in attendance.)

MOTION BY Arnold, SECONDED BY McClelland, to table this Public Hearing to the regular November meeting, being November 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried.

MOTION BY Arnold, SECONDED BY McClelland to adjourn this Public Hearing at 7:56 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Teresa M. Gormley
Recording Secretary

Richard McClelland
Secretary