

# Nelson Township Sub-Committee Meeting September 21 @ 7:00pm

Nelson Township Municipal Building  
2 Maple Street  
Sand Lake, Michigan 49343

## Minutes

The Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00pm

**Commissioners Present:** Wall, Mahoney, C. DeJong, R. DeJong, Covell, Stolk, and Weir.

**Also, Present:** Zoning Administrator, Gross, and Supervisor, Britton, Township Attorney, Leisman, and others that signed in.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Weir made motion to add, Sarniak Mine to line-item C., DeJong seconded it All-Yes

Discussion and approval of the Planning Commission Sub-Committee Minutes from September 15, 2022.

**Approval of the Planning Commission Minutes from June 15, 2022:** DeJong made motion to accept. Seconded by Weir. All-Yes

**Public Comment:** Public Comment opened at 7:04.

Kristi Rhodes (Hillcrest Church, 5994 18 Mile Road) spoke about the daycare the Church is interested in starting. It would be for 50 kids and the Church would be building an addition onto the Church to support the daycare and will be using the classrooms for their children's program on Sunday also. The Church would like to know what is needed to be able to pursue the daycare. Kristi stated that there is a 1-2 year waiting list for most daycares in our area.

There was other additional discussion by the Board members, Attorney, and the Zoning Administrator. The rest of the discussion is under New Business pertaining to the proposed daycare.

**Public Comment ended at 7:09**

**New Business:** A. Discussion on proposed daycare.

Zoning Administrator Gross explained that a daycare is not allowed in an AG area. He stated that we do not have anything that addresses daycare as a commercial venture, only in-home daycares. Attorney, Leisman stated that we would need to amend the ordinance. We could put it in under the commercial area and then connect it to the AG area.

Weir asked if the current ordinance could be amended to allow 50 kids, up from the 12 that are allowed.

Wall asked how many acres the Church sits on. (5 acres)

Stolk asked for the Boards opinion on moving ahead and looking at what can be done to accommodate the Church.

Covell: yes, but only in this situation.

C. DeJong: yes, in the commercial area

R. DeJong: yes, in the commercial area

Mahoney: yes, and amend the ordinance

Wall: yes, in the commercial area and connect the church in the AG area to it.

Weir: yes, as an accessory use of the church, in the commercial area

Stolk: yes, in the commercial area

B. Was tabled until after Sarniak Mine

C. Sarniak Mine: No violations currently. There were complaints about equipment starting early but was taken care of at the time.

The Resolution was written in 2015 for 7 years with renewals during that time.

The Resolution was good until September 16, 2022. The Resolution is expired and the Township board would have to OK any use of the pit.

Wall stated that the area looked to be a bigger area than before. Sarniak said they were increasing the area to get to the good sand but that the old area was still being used occasionally. Wall suggested that the bond money be brought back up to \$10,000.00 and asked why that money was used as escrow. He also stated that \$10,000.000 was, in his opinion, not enough to reclaim the property.

Weir wanted to see that if Sarniak moves the removal line then he should start to reclaim the property that is not being used.

The PC Board would like to see the following items included in the new resolution:

1. Engineered blueprint
2. Proposed grades on the blueprint
3. Reclamation plan
4. \$2,000.00 per acre for escrow

Sarniak said he is willing to start the reclamation process and have the Zoning Administrator check on the progress.

Weir made a motion to table the Sarniak project until October and take no Action on the continuation of the mine. Wall seconded it. All-Yes

B. Mine located at 16601 Ritchie

The mine expires in November. The resolution was written in 2015 for 7 years. If he has more to mine then he would need to use a new site plan. Zoning Administrator will contact mine owner and see what he wants to do.

**Extended Commissioners Comments:** The only comment was that Wall did a great job on the Sub-committee.

**Adjournment:** Mahoney made the motion to adjourn at 8:48 and C. DeJong seconded. All-Yes

Next Planning Commission meeting is October 19, 2022

Recording Secretary  
Susan VanEnk