

Franklin Township, Portage County
Zoning Commission Hearing
June 30, 2022

Members Present: Chair Mekal Banyasz, Mary Organ, Beth Geist, and Glenn Luttner.

Others: Jenny August, Zoning Commission Secretary. Alternate Judy Spencer observed as a resident.

Call to Order:

Ms. Banyasz called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes:

Mrs. Geist moved to accept the minutes from the February 17, 2022 meeting. Mrs. Organ seconded. All commissioners voted yes. The minutes were approved.

Discussion Topic:

Continued Discussion on Medical Marijuana Facilities in Franklin Township

Ms. Banyasz said that she, Mrs. Organ, and Mr. Luttner attended the Trustee Public Hearing regarding medical marijuana facilities in Franklin Township. The recommendations sent to the Trustees to consider at this hearing were tabled and sent back to the commission for further discussion.

Ms. Banyasz invited Mrs. Spencer to join the discussion, and reviewed the locations that the zoning commission recommended for medical marijuana dispensaries. Ms. Banyasz suggested that the commission strategize, reach out to neighboring communities, get facts together, and bring it back for discussion at a future meeting. She also thought it would be good to look at decisions and plans made by communities nearby. Mrs. Organ said the Trustees would like them to look into the industrial side. Ms. Banyasz agreed and because of previous concerns about high water usage by a medical marijuana manufacturing facility, they would look at industrial applications and their pull on resources, specifically water and electric.

Ms. Organ said she would like to ask Portage County Regional Planning Commission to explore which industrial areas could be used and with how much of a buffer to residential properties. She will also research the processing facility in Ravenna Township and other townships.

Mr. Luttner said he would contact other communities and see what language they have in place and/or what they are working on relating to medical marijuana facilities.

Mrs. Geist offered to research cultivating and also contact the Sheriff for any information they have.

Ms. Banyasz will also look at cultivating in other states and testing labs. They each have some research to do and they hope to put everything together at their next meeting, which will be August 18, 2022.

New or Other Business: Ms. Banyasz attended the PCRPC orientation program and it was clarified to her that the zoning commission is permitted to bring topics forward without

waiting for the Trustees or Zoning Inspector to request that they work on something. With that said, she would like to look at how our zoning laws are relating to affordable housing in the township.

Next Meeting: August 18, 2022

The next meeting is to be announced.

Adjournment: Ms. Banyasz moved to adjourn at 7:56 pm with a second from Mr. Luttner. All Commission members voted yes.

Respectfully submitted by Jenny August, Zoning Commission Secretary.

Approved:

Mekal Banyasz, Zoning Commission Chair