

Franklin Township, Portage County
Zoning Commission Hearing
October 20, 2022

Members Present: Chair Mekal Banyasz, Reed Havel, Glenn Luttner, and Mary Organ

Others: Joe Ciccozzi, Zoning Inspector; Jenny August, Zoning Commission Secretary.

Call to Order:

Ms. Banyasz called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes from June 30, 2022:

Ms. Banyasz noted that the June 30th minutes were tabled at the last meeting because there were not enough people to vote that were in attendance on June 30. Mrs. Organ moved to approve the June 30 minutes with a second from Mr. Luttner.

Approval of Minutes from August 18, 2022

Mr. Havel moved to approve the August 18, 2022 minutes with a second from Mr. Luttner. All eyes on vote except Mrs. Organ who abstained.

Discussion Topic:

Continued Discussion on Medical Marijuana Facilities in Franklin Township

Ms. Banyasz switched the order of the agenda so the commission could review some new business, then come back to the discussion on medical marijuana facilities in the township.

New or Other Business:

Ms. Banyasz asked Zoning Inspector Ciccozzi to discuss the possible rezoning application for Cline Road. Mr. Ciccozzi said this is a three-parcel lot owned by Kent State University. He was contacted by a student organization that is part of the School of Architecture and Design. They are not looking to rezone, but apply for variances for setback requirements and square footage so they can install tiny houses for student housing. Mr. Ciccozzi contacted the townships legal advisor to see if Kent State is exempt from zoning, but has not heard back yet. The property could be split into several plots, but he has not seen a site plan. The tiny homes will be on foundations, and a two-bedroom tiny home will be 800 square ft. A one bedroom will be less. This is still in the very early exploratory stages. We will need a lot more information before moving forward.

Discussion Topic on Medical Marijuana Facilities in Franklin Township:

Mr. Havel provided a copy of the email exchange he had with Mr. Randy Roberts of the Portage County Building Department about any possible building requirements for medical marijuana facilities. Mr. Roberts said any commercial building must follow the Ohio Building Code, and he provided a few specific codes such as greenhouse and building use codes. Ms. Banyasz said the discussion will continue to the next meeting because we still need information about what types of policies and procedures are in place with the Sheriff and local police departments, and also to check the codes that were provided by Mr. Roberts from the Portage County Building Department. Mrs. Organ said she will check with the Sheriff's office, Ms. Banyasz and Mr. Havel will check with the KSU and the Kent Police Departments.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held November 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment: Mrs. Organ moved to adjourn at 7:58 pm with a second from Mr. Havel.
All Commission members voted yes.

Respectfully submitted by Jenny August, Zoning Commission Secretary.

Approved:

Mekal Banyasz, Zoning Commission Chair