

MORRISON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

August 22, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Morrison County Planning Commission held a public hearing and regular monthly meeting in the Morrison County Government Center Board Room.

Regular Members Present: Brent Lindgren, John Kunelius, Clint Kathrein, Dave Stish and Marvin Trettel

Regular Members Absent: None

Commissioners Present: Jeff Jelinski, Randy Winscher, Bobby Kasper and Mike LeMieur

Commissioners Absent: Greg Blaine

Ex-Officio Members Present: Amy Kowalzek, Alan Ringwelski (SWCD) and Sharon Peterson

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Robert Wall

Other members: Matt LeBlanc

Chairman Clint Kathrein called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Clint Kathrein read the opening statement.

- 1. Curtis & Janice Plante – 16723 273rd St; Fort Ripley, MN 56449 – Application for a Conditional Use Permit to expand to a Tier IV hog feedlot; located in NW ¼ of Section 06, Township 42, Range 31, Ripley Township.**

Curtis Plante was present.

Amy Kowalzek entered into record Section 604.6 of the Morrison County Land Use Control Ordinance, Plat Map with the parcel location, Conditional Use Permit Application, Conditional Use Criteria Questions, site plan, two (2) aerial photos and staff report. There were 14 notices sent to neighboring property owners. One comment was received prior to the hearing. Amy entered the Conditional Use Criteria Questions into record.

Dave Stish asked how much more work will need to be done with MPCA. Curtis Plante stated he is not sure. Todd Marotz – Wakefield Pork – stated they did have the MPCA come out and address the site. This will help with genetics and population. There is a bio-filter on the barn now and it is working. We will look into other solutions as well. Need to look at the design of the bio-filter and the gaps in the wood chips. Amy Kowalzek stated that once a feedlot goes over 1000 animal units it is taken over by the MPCA, our Feedlot Officer will not over see this site.

Marvin Trettel asked if the 93% offset rating is for what is there now or what is projected. Amy Kowalzek stated it is including the proposed barn. Marvin asked what the rating is now. Amy stated the model was not ran on the existing operation. Marvin asked if there have been any complaints on the feedlot before. Amy stated the feedlot is compliant now. No issues that we know of. Jeff Bauman – Anez Consulting - stated the original barn was at 91% offset rating. This would show that the neighbors would smell the barns two days per month. Amy stated that in the past we required feedlots to meet a 91% offset rating.

Brent Lindgren asked about filling in the low line lands and the placement of the new barn. Curtis Plante

stated the new barn will go where the orange line is on the map. Amy Kowalzek entered into record Exhibit 1 into record (engineered plan of the proposed barn).

Clint Kathrein stated that the feedlot is right at the threshold of the phosphorus levels. Is there more land available? Curtis stated he does have more land available to him. Clint asked how far the property owner that commented is. Curtis stated about ½ mile away.

Audience Comment:

Dave Bergin – Amy Kowalzek entered into record Exhibit 2 from Dave. He lives to the north of the applicant. Does the feedlot have to be 1320 feet from a neighbor? Amy Kowalzek stated this only applies to animal holding areas. Dave stated they are using a Township Road now and the traffic may double with the new barn. This is a five-ton road and there are restrictions on this road and the trucks that are coming on this road are more than five tons. Could this road go to a 9-ton road? The compost pit is what smells the most.

Mary Bartlett – live across the road. Curtis has been a great neighbor. The smells have prevented me from hanging laundry outside and cannot open my windows. The smells have been better but still go back to bad.

Jim Cole – Ripley Township – stated they would like to get together and decide on what to do on these roads. We will try and help out as much as we can.

Glen Pugh – Ripley Township stated the road does get wash boarded but it is not from the pig facility. We consider all of our roads 9-ton roads. 273rd St is a 5 ton and 268th St is a 5-ton road.

Jim Strahl – Wakefield people do not live by farms. The smell is terrible.

Justin Sankey – manager of the feedlot. The traffic will not increase. There will be less truck traffic to deliver the pigs.

Todd Marotz stated there will be more feed trucks.

Amy Kowalzek asked if the Township has any concerns on the roads. Glen Pugh stated the Township does not have any concerns. The washboard is from the ATV's and vehicles.

Clint asked if there is something that can be done about the smell of the compost pit. Curtis stated they are working with the State of MN on different ways to improve this. Could try some other things as well to help like changing the material and turning it sooner.

John Kunelius stated it was mentioned to do other things like what. Todd Marotz stated they could change the material sooner removal of the animals on a regular basis and add more additive.

Clint stated he has a cabin on CB lake and drive by all the time. The road is graded a lot. This is ag land. Everything smells, some worse than others. Composting pits are tricky. Better than waiting for a rendering truck or burring them. Marvin asked about adding a condition. Clint asked who would regulate this. Dave Stish asked if the neighbors would like to complain who should they contact. Amy Kowalzek stated MPCA.

The voting sheets were polled.

A motion was made by Brent Lindgren to recommend approval of this request. The motion was seconded by Dave Stish. The vote was all in favor.

The application will go in front of the Morrison County Board of Commissioners on August 29, 2023.

2. Randy & Amy Smieja – 21802 63rd St; Royalton, MN 56373 – Application for an After-the-Fact Conditional Use Permit to continue mini storage in sheds; located in pt of the S ½ of SE ¼, Section 21, Township 39, Range 31, Bellevue Township.

Randy & April Smieja were present.

Amy Kowalzek entered into record Section 604.5 of the Morrison County Land Use Control Ordinance, Plat Map with the parcel location, After the Fact Conditional Use Permit Application, Conditional Use Criteria Questions, site plan, aerial photo, staff report and aerial photo showing both parcels. There were 13 notices sent to neighboring property owners. No comment was received prior to the hearing. Amy entered the Conditional Use Criteria Questions into record.

Randy Smieja stated the shed will be smaller than the other one 60' x 152'

Dave Stish asked if it was known that a CUP was needed. Randy Smieja stated this is only seasonal and no one works on the site. Did not know that this was required. Land has been in the family since 1919. This was just trying to better myself. Dave asked if there would not be any more outside storage. Randy stated no, it's too much work. The people are my customers not Miller Marine customers they contract is from me. No electric dirt floor buildings. Dave very well taken care of property.

Brent Lindgren stated like the goal is to have no outdoor storage. Randy Smieja stated the goal is to get away from any outdoor storage. Brent could we add a condition to this effect. Randy stated he was ok with this.

Marvin Trettel stated it was noted that no one comes to the property. Randy Smieja stated I deliver and pick up all of the boats.

Clint Kathrein asked if the size of the shed is required. Amy Kowalzek stated it is listed on the permit. Dave Stish asked if he could he come in for more buildings. Amy stated if there was another CUP hearing.

Clint Kathrein asked what is the size of the building Randy Smieja stated it will be 60' x 152'.

Audience Comment: None

The voting sheets were polled.

A motion was made by John Kunelius to recommend approval of this request including condition. The motion was seconded by Dave Stish. The vote was all in favor.

The application will go in front of the Morrison County Board of Commissioners on August 29, 2023.

The public hearing was closed at 7:25 p.m.

A motion was made by Dave Stish to approve the August 8, 2023 minutes with corrections. The motion was seconded by Clint Kathrein. The vote was all in favor.

Correspondence – None

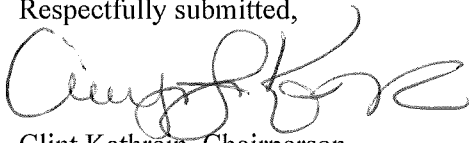
Old Business – None

New Business – None

A motion was made by Marvin Trettel to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Clint Kathrein. The vote was all in favor.

With no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Kowalzek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kowalzek".

Clint Kathrein, Chairperson

Brent Lindgren, Vice-Chairperson

Marvin Trettel, Secretary

Amy Kowalzek, Appointed Secretary

Morrison County Planning Commission