

**White Oak Township Planning Commission**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**February 9, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Steckelberg, Chairperson at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Jeff Steckelberg, John Kemler, Aaron Graf, Megan Willis-Redfern, Tom Brimhall-Zoning Administrator, Leela Vernon-Clerk, Brigitte and Denver Doxtator, Ashley and Wade Andersen, Richard Morrison, and Raphael Kasen from McKenna.

The members of the board introduced themselves. Trustee Kemler made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Megan Willis-Redfern. Motion carried.

This meeting was to discuss amending the ordinance to include a Gun Range Ordinance. Raphael presented the board with an updated draft Gun Range ordinance. Basically what would trigger the enforcing of this ordinance would be a complaint. He went over the Zoning Exempt Shooting section in definitions. He went over the difference between the Commercial scale ranges and residential scale. Mr. Brimhall asked if any Commercial scale range would have to be on either M-52 or M36 which are the two areas designated for future Commercial zoning in our Master Plan. They would also require a Special Use Permit. It was agreed that any Commercial Range would have to be in the areas designated for future Commercial Use. He went over the Standards section and they apply to all gun ranges.

Meg had some concerns about the enforcement of the ordinance. When would it need to be enforced. Raphael stated that enforcement would be at the discretion of the Zoning Administrator but again only when there is a complaint.

Treasurer Doxtator to clarify stated that if everyone is behaving and no one is abusing their right to shoot and they are not disturbing their neighbors there is no need to enforce the ordinance, but if someone complains because the shooters are being a nuisance that's when we have the ordinance to fall back on.

Trustee Kemler had a concern about requiring fences for any gun range. It was decided to remove that from the proposed ordinance for residential scale ranges, but have it remain for Commercial scale ranges. There was discussion about the need for signs. There should be a sign when shooting.

It was agreed to change (C) (5) to include **all** buildings, including accessory buildings. Also to remove (C) Standards (1) from the Standards section and to include that in both Residential and Commercial sections. The one for residential does not include fencing, but need temporary sign when in use, but the one for commercial to include fencing and signs within clear view of range as stated in the draft ordinance. Raphael will put something together to meet our needs.

Trustee Kemler had questions about the hours for shooting. It was agreed to change the hours to 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for small arms and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for large arms.

Raphael will put together an updated draft and sent to our Township Attorney for her comments. Once approved by the attorney it will have to be approved by the Township Board. Then have a public hearing. He will put together a sample noise ordinance for the April hearing.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. We will conduct the public hearing for the Gun Range Ordinance and start to work on the noise ordinance.

**Adjournment:**

Aaron Graf made a motion to adjourn; John Kemler seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Steckelberg  
Planning Commission Chair