

Zoning board of appeals
May 9, 2022
Variance for Dorothy Steckley

Minutes:

At 6pm, a call to order was given to start the meeting and the pledge of allegiance was performed. Following this, roll call was done and present was: David Mullins, Richard Morrison, Denver Doxtator, Jeff Steckelberg, and Roger Graff being a couple of minutes late. A quorum was present and was announced. Leela Vernon was also present.

This was the second meeting with regards to the variance for Mrs. Steckley. The first meeting was tabled due to not having the information about how the property was changed from commercial to agricultural. Also, a motion was not moved nor seconded during the first meeting.

The meeting started with Mrs. Steckley explaining the need for a variance due to the property being 1.95 acres and our ordinance states that a 2 acre is the minimum for building a residence. Mrs. Steckley also stated that she was contacted by someone from the township in the hopes that she would change the property from commercial to agricultural around 2005 but she could not remember who this person was. She also states that she did not sign any paperwork to this effect and did not know that the change had taken place. Richard Morrison raised the issue of how did she not know since her taxes were lowered, due to the homesteading change.

Mrs. Steckley raised the concern that during the first meeting that took place, a vote was taken with two for and one against. She believes that this was considered a passing vote and it should be counted. It was explained to her that a motion had not taken place and the vote did not count.

Jeff Steckleberg raised the concern about how all of the neighbors had written the township and were all opposed to the variance being granted. Jason Ladd, her neighbor, raised his concern of this setting precedence in the township and that everyone will want to come for variances in the township. Mrs. Steckley's realtor then personally attacked Mr. Ladd with regards to his trashy property. Mrs. Steckley's realtor was

told that personal attacks will not be permitted and that she would not be recognized by the board for the remainder of the meeting.

Mrs. Steckley plead her case one last time for the board. Richard Morrison raised the idea that the property could be improved to the point that someone could live there without the variance. This would mean the existing building would have to be brought up to code and this would be financially burdensome but possible. Ross Jeffries (neighbor) gave his final statement saying that he wanted this to not be granted and he wanted the township to remain agricultural and not have more residences in it. He also stated that, if the property was sold, it was no guarantee that this would be an "improvement" for the township. Finally he brought up the point of the property could have been better maintained, instead of allowing it to depreciate.

Finally, Richard Morrison stated that in our ordinance book, it states that building a new residence, is not justification enough to grant variances.

Debate was then closed and a motion to bring the question to a vote was moved and seconded. A vote took place and is as follows:

David Mullins - No

Richard Morrison - No

Jeff Steckelberg - No

Denver Doxtator - Yes

Roger Graff - Yes

With this vote, the variance did not pass and the meeting was adjourned.