

HOMER TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PLANNING & OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

5:00 pm September 18th, 2019
Homer Township - Administration Building
14350 W. 151st Street, Homer Glen, IL 60491

Draft presented to the Committee on November 20th 2019

Meeting Minutes approved November 20th 2019

This meeting is subject to the Open Meetings Act

The Open Space Planning & Operations Committee met at the Homer Township Administration Building. The meeting began at 5:00 P.M. and ended at 6:47 P.M.

- 1. Meeting called to order at 5:00 P.M.*
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was performed.*
- 3. Roll Call: Present- Tom Fijan, Margaret Sabo and Pam Meyers. Absent: Josh Barrett*
- 4. Public Comment: None*
- 5. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve July 17th 2019 and August 21st 2019 Committee meeting minutes by Pam Meyers, second by Margaret Sabo- No Discussion- All Yes- Motion Carries*
- 6. Reports*
 - a. Trantina Farm: No Report*
 - b. Granary: Committee discussed the need to paint the Granary.*
 - c. Community Event Center: Chairman Fijan reported that the electors at the Special Meeting voted 30-15 against the proposal "for an order that the Homer Township Board shall not purchase, lease or use any real property for the purpose of having an event center for events like weddings, banquets and larger meetings for invited guests". Fijan suggested the*

outcome of the vote was a directive from the electors to move forward with the Committee investigations. Pam Meyers reiterated for the record that the potential to construct a pole barn building commonly called an "Event Center" is still on an exploratory basis. She added the purpose of the Committee is to explore the feasibility and grant funding options available. To avoid confusion to the public, it was suggested by Committee that this building should be referred to as a multi-purpose building; particularly considering the mixture of uses such a building could present. Margaret Sabo added she had hoped to have an area of the building as a sort of museum space with items that were donated to the township related to its history, settlement and agricultural beginnings. Pam suggested that these items might be incorporated into the décor by displays, on walls, etc. Pam Meyers added that the building concept is in response to public requests for larger community space needed. Based upon that input, the goal is to plan for as much multiuse, public space as can be accomplished (between for example, 150-300 people with adequate parking) based upon any potential funding that may be available for these purposes. There was also discussion of incorporating the other existing buildings into the design and perhaps joining them by a common courtyard type area. Given the many unknowns and possibilities there is much to investigate.

The group is also planning beyond the initial cost of constructing a building. The Committee is researching a design based on energy efficient principles such as the Net Zero building concept whereby a building produces its own passive/solar energy for things like heating, lighting, etc. to keep costs down in consideration of various grants available for these types of programs. The Committee discussed potential pole barn sizes, designs, maximum capacity, sprinklers and locations of the Multi-purpose Building. Further investigation for funding sources and achievability is indicated. Goals need to be set and professionals in solar and passive energy building and grants will be contacted for ideas. The Committee discussed potential grants that may be available from organizations like ComEd, Illinois Clean Energy, etc. The next step of the Committee is to reach out to Will County Green and Illinois Clean Energy for more information.

- d. New parking areas, locations, sizes:** Planning for additional onsite parking was discussed and it was recommended that plans should not be finalized until a location for a multipurpose building was identified on the north side of the parcel.
- e. Grants:** Grant possibilities were discussed in regard to the Multi-purpose Building
- f. Welter Barn:** Pam Meyers reported on the porches on the Barn. She stated maintenance is hoping to deconstruct the porch reusing the existing wood and adjusting the footing below the frost line. Chairman Fijan suggest they use cardboard sonotubes while repairing the footing because they are not effected by weather and do not move. Pam Meyers stated maintenance is confident they can do the repair.
- g. Rental house:** No Report
- h. Smoke house:** No Report
- i. Chicken house:** No Report
- j. Metal shed:** No Report
- k. Purdy Farm:** No Report
- l. Paul farm:** No Report
- m. Welter Farm:** No Report
- n. Dog Park:** No Report
- o. Fund Raising:** The Committee discussed organizing low cost fundraising events to offset expenditures and produce non-tax revenues for the Open Space Program. Ideas related to pets Dog Park when the season permits were considered. Sabo indicated that a Fundraiser of this caliber would interest all ages and she offered to investigate the details of these type of events. Flea Markets, arts and craft shows, organic/produce sales and antique show fundraising possibilities were discussed as well.

7. Action Items

- a. Fund Raising Needs:** See Fund Raising discussion above. No action taken or motion made.

8. New Business: None

9. Old Business: None

10. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:47 P.M. by Pam Meyers, second by Chairman Tom Fijan- No Discussion- All Yes- Motion Carries.