

**Wright Township Planning Commission**  
**May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**(Reviewed)**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Dausman called the meeting to order at 7:30PM and opened the meeting with the pledge and prayer.

**No Parking in Fire Spaces:** Dausman reminded the audience not to park in the spaces marked; Reserved for Firemen. Members present: Dausman, Karr, VanDyke, Ruwersma and Westgate.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Dausman pointed out that the yearly election of Officers would need to be added to the agenda as this is the first Planning Commission meeting of 2011. Motion made by Ruwersma, seconded by Karr to add Election of the 2011 Planning Commission Officers to the agenda, motion carried.

**Election of the 2011 PC Officers:** Dausman opened the floor for nominations. VanDyke nominated Dausman and made a motion that Dausman remain as chair of the PC, Karr seconded the motion, motion carried. Westgate nominated Karr as Vice Chair and made the motion that Karr remain as Vice Chair, VanDyke seconded the motion, motion carried. VanDyke nominated Westgate as Secretary and made the motion that Westgate remain as Secretary, Ruwersma seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of the December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Minutes:** Motion by VanDyke, supported by Westgate to approve the minutes as recorded, motion carried.

**No Public Comments for Items Not On the Agenda:** There were several members of the public in attendance; all questions/comments were presented during the Public Hearing.

**Public Hearing-Special Land Use Request from Lynda DeYoung & Jack Dykstra & Sons Excavating:** Public Hearing opened at 7:36 PM. Karr requested that Dausman ask that the Representative from Law Weathers be introduced and give a summary of the Special Land Use Request. Crystal Morgan introduced herself and proceeded to give an overview. Crystal said that there were two applications before the PC, one

being for a special land use request and the other for a mining permit. It is a unique situation as the applications are for work that has already been performed on the property. When the Township discovered that this work was being done without permits, municipal civil infraction citations were issued to the property owner on three different occasions in December of 2010. As part of a negotiated settlement of the civil infraction action, the Township required that the property owner apply for and obtain both a Special Land Use Permit and a Soil Mining Permit for the work that was completed on the subject property through December 17, 2010, that the owner go through the usual process for obtaining the permits, and that the owner pay all the applicable fines and fees. Paul Dykstra came before the Commission and explained what work has been done using a map that he provided to the Township. Crystal Morgan explained that the applications DO NOT cover any future mining activity or any future activity of any kind on the property. If any additional work requiring a mining permit or special land use approval is to be performed on the site, the property owner is required to apply for approval before performing the work. Judy Rusche, 4510 Peach Ridge, Grand Rapids, MI asked where the water was going that used to flow down into the ravine that has now been filled. Her father, Peter J. VanderMeer lives on Juniper, Marne near the subject property. Sara Farrugia, 15294 24<sup>th</sup> Ave, Marne wanted to be reassured that this did not include any future work. Karr asked why the fill was brought to this property. Dykstra explained that it was to straighten a driveway that Tim DeYoung uses to his home and also to separate his driveway from the one that Rusche Trucking uses onto the property. Rusche no longer uses the permitted easement driveway and their intentions to continue are uncertain at this time. Steve Farrugia, 15294 24<sup>th</sup> Ave, Marne asked about the driveway and the reasoning behind it. Dykstra explained that it was to be used exclusively by Tim DeYoung for personal use. Sara Farrugia wanted reassurance that the landfill would not be disturbed by excavating, and Dykstra said this was not his intention. Karr made a motion to approve the Special Land Use Permit for the work that has already been done on the site, specifically the work that was completed through Dec. 17, 2010. The Commission reviewed the standards applicable to the Commission's review, Ruwersma seconded the motion, the vote was taken, the motion carried. Questions were directed to the PC about any future work on the subject property. Normal procedures must be followed for any future work. Public hearing was closed at 8:01 PM

**Site Plan Review-Lynda DeYoung & Jack Dykstra & Sons Excavating:**

The Site Plan Review was discussed during the above Public Hearing.

**Application for Soil Mining Permit-Lynda DeYoung & Jack Dykstra & Sons Excavating:** PC considered the Application for the Soil Mining Permit for work that has already been done on the subject property. Mining was done and citations were issued to the property owner on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Ruwersma made a motion that the PC accept for approval the Application for the Soil Mining Permit which includes the dates of December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from Dykstra & Sons Excavating and send the recommendation for approval to the Township Board. Karr seconded the motion, motion carried. Dausman clarifies again that this is only for work that has already been done. Any activity that comes before the PC for a public hearing in the future will require notification to surrounding properties.

**Commission Member Concerns:** The PC questioned Crystal regarding the civil infraction process and determination of fines and there was discussion regarding the settlement of the DeYoung matter. The PC thanked Crystal for her expertise. Ruwersma inquired about an agenda item sent out by Boersma. Boersma explained that it was sent out by mistake and clarified to PC how the agenda item was added and then removed. Karr recommended meeting quarterly rather than squeezing four PC meetings at the end of the year. Medical Marihuana Ordinance was passed out for personal review. VanDyke required about the status of Creekview. Boersma pulled the file and the PC examined the file for educational purposes.

**Adjournment:** Westgate motioned to adjourn at 8:36PM, VanDyke seconded the motion, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by: Rebecca L. Boersma  
Recording Secretary, Wright Township Planning Commission

C: Wright Township Board Members  
Jan Johnson, Main Street by e-mail  
Planning members: Dausman (US Mail), Karr, Ruwersma, VanDyke, Westgate.  
Secretary Boersma, by e-mail  
Community Members: Bill Miller, Carol Rasch, Russell Rasch by e-mail  
Ann Malewitz by US Mail