

Minutes
Strasburg Township Planning Commission
December 13, 2021

The Strasburg Township Planning Commission (PC) held their regular meeting on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Strasburg Township Municipal building, 400 Bunker Hill Road. Present were June Mengel, Bill Potter, Joshua Weaver and Cindy Welk.

Guests: Isaac S. Lapp and Isaac F. Lapp

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public comment was invited. There was none.

On a motion by Mengel/Weaver, the PC voted unanimously to approve the minutes of October 11, 2021 as submitted.

The application of Isaac Lapp, CU2021-01, for permission to demolish a structure at 230 North Star Road listed as an historic resource in the Township Comprehensive Plan was reviewed. The Lapp's provided the following information:

- The existing house is very close to the road and is unsafe to pull out with a horse
- There is significant termite and powder post beetle damage to supporting beams
- It is a brick building with vinyl siding
- It was built in the mid-1800's
- The property was purchased by Isaac F. Lapp in 2008 due to its proximity to the operating North Star Parochial School at 240 North Star Road
- The property has been a rental since 2008 with very carefully selected tenants, once again due to its proximity to the school
- The property was purchased by Isaac S. Lapp in 2020 as a home for one of his sons
- The dwelling is not suitable for an Amish family and would require extensive renovation and/or expansion
- Sale of the property to someone outside the family or Amish community would have a negative impact on the school
- Demolition of the dwelling would not negatively affect the character of the neighborhood, but would improve it

There was significant discussion of the unusual aspects of this request pertaining to: the presence of the school and the community's interest in maintaining ownership of the property in Amish hands; the unsuitable layout and location of the dwelling for an Amish family.

On a motion by Weaver/Mengel, the PC voted unanimously to forward the plan to the Supervisors with a recommendation to approve.

Mengel announced she had been selected by the Supervisors to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board effective January 2022. She has served on the PC for over 20 years.

Potter thanked her for lending her expertise, knowledge and kindness to all of the PC dealings during her tenure. He announced the Supervisors have appointed two new members to the PC, Terry Smith and Brad Leaman, effective January 2022.

There being no further business before the PC, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Judith Willig
Recording Secretary