

GREEN LAKE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
GOLDEN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
9700 RILEY ROAD, INTERLOCHEN, MI  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER: By Chair Roy Volkening at 6:00 pm.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was recited by all.
3. ROLL CALL: Board members present were: Volkening, E. Wilson and Marek. Haight and C. Wilson were absent and excused. Also present were Alycia Reiten, Planning and Zoning Director and Mary Jo Barck, Recording Secretary.
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Moved by Marek and supported by Volkening to approve the Agenda as presented. Carried.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Moved by Market and supported by E. Wilson to approve the Minutes of March 19, 2022, as written. Carried.
6. CORRESPONDENCE:  
Haggard's Plumbing and Heating offered a letter in support of both variance requests.
7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT: None on this date
8. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. **Public Hearing** ZBA 22-005 – A request for the granting of a variance to Article 4 General Provisions, 4.13 Fences, B. Table of Dimensions, front yard setback 35 feet, located at 2868 Pine Breeze Drive, Interlochen, MI and owned by Amanda Finfrock. The applicant is requesting a variance of seven feet to the front yard setback to install a five-foot chain-link fence.

Sid Finfrock, applicant explained the fence was installed for safety and security. He has a young child and the fence offers protection from coyotes and other animals. When it was installed by Apple Fence, he was assured permits had been applied for. Mr. Finfrock added he knew nothing about the paper road, but if a permit had been applied for he would have known. Volkening asked when the fence was installed, Mr. Finfrock said two years ago in 2020. The members discussed the fence ordinance height restrictions and setbacks.

Open Public Hearing to Public Comment by Volkening at 6:17 p.m.

Comments: No public comments

Close Public Hearing at 6:17 p.m. by Volkening.

Discussion:

The Board reviewed Section 15.4 A 1-5 and stated the following conclusions.

Marek commented, and E. Wilson supported, moving the fence would be burdensome. E. Wilson added all other structures are well within property setbacks except for fence. Volkening said the paper road may never be developed since it is a dead end and goes to a common area in a separate development. Volkening stated the fence does correct a safety issue. Marek believes the height of the fence is not an issue.

Motion by Marek and supported by E. Wilson to approve ZBA 22-005, a variance of seven feet to the front yard setback to install a five-foot chain-link fence. because it meets the requirements of Section 15.4 A 1-5. Roll Call:

yeah, E. Wilson

yeah, Marek

yeah, Volkening

Carried.

- B. **Public Hearing** ZBA 22-006 – A request for the granting of a variance to Article 8, 8.6 Table of Dimensional regulations, front yard setback 35 feet, located at 7632 Birch Street, Grawn, MI and owned by Christopher and Marsha Mead. The applicants are requesting a variance of 10.5 feet to the front yard setback to enclose a porch.

Comments:

Mr. Mead shared the original house was built in the 1900's and this porch was added in 1997, he enclosed it for family health reasons. Builder who covered the porch said he had gotten the required permits. Mr. Mead said he wishes to be good neighbors but needed the porch covered so the family could enjoy the outside. No changes were made to the size of the porch, just covered it. Mr. Mead thanked Ms. Reiten and Mr. Mansfield for assisting with his application.

Open Public Hearing to Public Comment by Volkening at 6:44 p.m.

Mary Jo Barck, 2649 Gonder Road. The builder referenced here has a reputation within the township office of not applying for permits.

Close Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m. by Volkening

Discussion:

Marek said the owner hired a professional who did not apply for permit, owner admitted responsibility but was told the permit was received. Marek added that based on the aerial most of the homes in the area out of compliance. Volkening asked if the roof overhang of the new covered portion is included in the request, Reiten said they are. E. Wilson feels most of the homes in that area are out of compliance with setbacks. Marek said no other relief is requested other than what was done. Volkening said he believes it is unique, having been built in the early 1900's. Volkening added the owner was not aware no permit, does he understand he will have to apply for one if approved? Reiten, yes. E. Wilson asked who maintains the road, Reiten replied the owners.

The Board reviewed Section 15.4 A 1-5 and stated the following conclusions.

Motion by Marek and supported by Volkening to approve ZBA 22-006, a variance of 10.5 feet to the front yard setback of 35 feet, because it meets the requirements of Section 15.4 A 1-5. Roll Call:

Yeah, E. Wilson,  
Yeah, Marek,  
Yeah, Volkening  
Carried.

9. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

11. BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Volkening will be resigning from the Zoning Board of Appeals as he has accepted a position with the township.

12. ADJOURNMENT: By Volkening at 7:00 p.m.

CHRIS HAIGHT, SECRETARY  
GREEN LAKE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

MARY JO BARCK, RECORDING SECRETARY  
GREEN LAKE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT AND/OR CORRECTION PRIOR TO THEIR ACCEPTANCE.