

Empire Township Planning Commission Minutes

March 1, 2022

The Empire Township Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Tom Kaldunski at 8:00 PM.

Present were: Tom Kaldunski, Trent Larson, Jared Sachs, Doug Clark, Marla Vagts, Jane Kansier, Brad Fisher, Charles Seipel-Teng, and liaison Jamie Elvestad.

The Planning Commission reviewed a letter from an Empire resident requesting that the Township consider adopting ordinance language that requires the removal of snow from sidewalks in residential areas of the township. The letter noted that having snow blocking sidewalks is a safety concern.

The Planning Commission reviewed what is currently on file in Township ordinances and reviewed an ordinance from the City of Farmington that requires snow removal. Empire Township does not require snow removal. It was the consensus of the Planning Commission that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to remove snow from the sidewalks. If an ordinance is adopted, it must be enforced by the Township. The Planning Commission discussed current efforts by Township staff to clear snow from roads and trails. Currently Township staff does their best to make sure trails are cleared, but in bad winters, that task is difficult to accomplish.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Planning Commission that adopting an ordinance requiring snow to be removed from all sidewalks would be difficult for the Township to enforce. Township staff should do everything that they can to encourage homeowners make sure snow is removed from their sidewalks to help address safety concerns. Staff should make it a priority to communicate this concern to residents in the fall.

It was reported that the IUP for Maxim Litvinov (American Motors) is set to expire at the end of March. If renewed, the Planning Commission recommended that the IUP be set to renew every year thereafter.

It was reported that the public meeting regarding the incorporation of Empire Township was very well attended, and a large majority of residents seemed to be supportive of the incorporation process. The Township is working with the City of Farmington on the process of the incorporation and making sure that parcels to be annexed into the City of Farmington at the time of incorporation are identified. There will be an EFPAC Meeting scheduled soon to meet with Farmington officials to make sure Empire and Farmington officials and staff are all on the same page regarding the incorporation process.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.