

**MINUTES OF THE GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
JUNE 19, 2019  
AT THE GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP OFFICES  
8555 KALAMAZOO AVENUE SE CALEDONIA, MICHIGAN 49316**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chair Giarmo. A quorum was not present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Connie Giarmo, Ronnie Rober, Brad Waayenberg

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Talimma Billips, Brad Burns, Tim Haagsma, Lani Thomas

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Matt McKernan, Assistant Planner  
Dave Jirousek, AICP- Township Planning Consultant

**II. CONSIDERATION OF MEETING AGENDA**

No Changes

**III. INQUIRY OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**V. New Business**

**1. Site visit to active Stoneco mining operation at 1560 100<sup>th</sup> Street**

The joint meeting of the Gaines Township Planning Commission & Township Board of Trustees commenced on the west side of the active mining operation at 1560 100<sup>th</sup> Street at a location approximately 800 feet from the “pre-crusher”. Tony Halloran and Steve Leach were present on behalf of Stoneco as was their attorney Ken Vermeulen. Mr. Halloran gave a brief overview of the existing operation. Halloran stressed the measures that Stoneco takes to reduce noise on the site. Examples of such measures are a heavily insulated generator to run the conveyor system and “white noise” backup alarms for Stoneco owned vehicles. A decibel meter was used to measure the amount of noise generated by the site under normal working conditions. The site measured between 55-65 decibels (about the level of human conversation) under normal working conditions. The noise level increased to 72-85 decibels when vehicles passed the site.

The meeting relocated to the east side of the berms located at the corner of Kalamazoo Avenue & 100<sup>th</sup> Street. The noise levels again varied between 55-65 decibels during normal operation and rose as high as 85 decibels when traffic passed on Kalamazoo Avenue.

Mike Hekstra of 2499 108<sup>th</sup> Street visited the site to voice concerns over the site. Mr. Hekstra wanted to know how deep Stoneco mined, whether the grade on Kalamazoo Avenue would be leveled after completion of the mine, and whether or not the site would be suitable for farming or development after the cessation of mining activities. Hekstra also expressed his opinion that the berms at the northeast corner of 100<sup>th</sup> Street and Eastern Avenue (now Preservation Lakes) were unsightly.

Mr. Halloran responded to Hekstra's comments. The depth of drilling will vary, but may go as deep as 30 feet. Stoneco mines well above the water table, leaving plenty of sand underneath the surface to allow for the installation of septic systems if needed. Improving the grading on Kalamazoo Avenue was discussed but ultimately it was determined to not be a feasible option. Stoneco takes direction from the Township on the design of berms. The berms on the existing site will be removed following the completion of mining on the site.

**2. Site visit to farm owned by Doretta Anema**

The meeting relocated to the farm owned by Doretta Anema at 4:50 PM. Anema had friends and neighbors present to help with her presentation (a list of attendees is attached to the meeting minutes). Anema began the tour with a presentation of a restored barn located 1200 feet to the southeast of the proposed mining operation. Anemda explained that the barn was used as an artist/classroom space. Jamie Dunbar of Muskegon asked Anema how she felt the approval of the gravel pit would impact her current operation. Anema responded that she had spent a substantial sum of money restoring and improving the barn and fears that the proposed gravel mine will negatively impact her ability to operate her Friesian Horse riding facility.

The tour proceeded from the barn past a smaller riding area, through the horse stable, and ultimately to the large, fenced riding area in the northeast corner of the property. Anema gave an overview of the operation of the horse stables and riding area. Stan Bosscher of Caledonia (father of Anema's neighbor Jenny Ike) and Jamie Dunbar of Muskegon asked Anema questions pertaining to how dust and noise could impact the health of her horses. Anema explained that horses have sensitive lungs that are very susceptible to dust. Anema explained that she had chosen the orientation of her horse stable to maximize the flow of fresh air through the building. Anema is concerned that dust from the mining operation would be directed toward her horses. Anema finished the tour by explaining that she had invested significant amounts of time and money into her farm, which provides a unique service to the area.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** By Member Rober supported by Member Waayenberg to adjourn the meeting.

**Discussion:** None

**Ayes:** Giarmo, Rober, Waayenberg

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Motion:** Passed

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

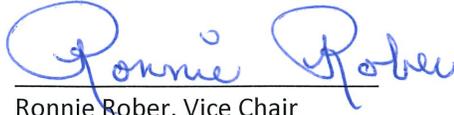
**Meeting Attendee List**

1. Tony Halloran, Stoneco
2. Ken Vermeulen, Attorney for Stoneco
3. Steve Leach, Stoneco
4. Mike Hekstra, 2499 108<sup>th</sup> Street SE
5. Jake & Jenny Ike, 10392 Kalamazoo Avenue SE
6. Steve & Cindy DeCook, Grandville
7. Stan Bosscher, Caledonia
8. Jamie Dunbar, Muskegon
9. Chantal Merizon
10. Jon Tenelsoff
11. Shirley Bruursema

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the minutes from the June 19, 2019 Special Meeting of the Gaines Charter Township Planning Commission held at the time and place mentioned above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronnie Rober, Vice Chair  
Gaines Charter Township  
Planning Commission

Dated: June 27, 2019

6/19/19 Farm visit

Questions :

Check out the  
border to the proposed  
gravel pit

1. How old is the red barn?
2. How much did it cost to restore the red barn?
3. Does the Historical society know about the red barn?
4. Do you have any events planned for the red barn?
5. How much did the horse barn cost?
6. Who built the Horse barn?
7. How did you prepare to build the horse barn? How did you know what you wanted it to look like and what features you wanted in it?
8. Why do you have double doors in the stalls?
9. What is this green metal contraption in this stall?
10. What goes in to an arena like the one you have? Is it just sand?
11. Why do you have fencing around the arena?
12. How and why do you use a Round Pen?
13. How old is the baby horse? How fragile are they? What are the most dangerous environmental hazards for her??
14. What frightens the horses the most?
15. How often do you need to work/ride the horses to keep them fit?
16. Do you ride the horses for fitness?
17. Who comes to help you with chores?
18. Who comes to help with working the horses?
19. Where did your signs come from?
20. Do you use your carriages? Where would you use them?
21. Have you ever been thrown from the horses? If so why?
22. What causes the horses to spook?
23. Do the horses get used to the noise of the pump for the maple sap?
24. What do you do with the school children in your classes?
25. What do the Special Needs kids do when they come out?
26. What do you hear from the families after they have been out here?
27. What kind of wildlife do you see here from the woods and fields?
28. What kind of animals use the pond/wetlands?
29. What have you seen when kids work around this farm?
30. What kind of fencing is this?
- 31.