

**Athens Township Planning Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 18, 2023**

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the Athens Township Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM on May 18, 2023 and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Planning Commissioners Present**

Todd Christensen, Marlys Balfany, Jack Cole, Jason Ross, AJ Ondrey, Dean Thompson, Township Clerk Diane Carpenter and Mike Jungbauer

**Guests Present**

Two residents attended.

**Approval of Minutes**

M/S Jason Ross/Dean Thompson to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**Open Forum**

Jennifer Stanley who owns the dance studio next to the town hall has proposed adding a second driveway and extra parking spots to facilitate traffic flow when clients are dropping off and picking up kids. This would have to be approved by Isanti County as it is a county road but needs township approval first.

M/S Dean Thompson/Jack Cole to move this to the board for approval, with P&Z recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Old Business**

None.

## **New Business**

-Mike present board members with photos of several current residential areas in the township. A discussion was held about updating the ordinance and what would be allowed in these areas for in home business. Mike will proceed with working on the new ordinance changes.

-Work meetings for P&Z are scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup>, both beginning at 7 PM.

-27418 Larch was brought up as we have received complaints. This is Rum River Boutique and is in Stanford township but all the traffic, which is significant, uses our road. Why did the county zoning approve this with no notification to us?

-A discussion was held about what we would allow for businesses in A/R zoned areas that have bigger lots. It was decided that no CUP's should be issued to anything that is not zoned commercial.

-Mike presented a business zoning worksheet to complete before the upcoming work meetings.

-A discussion was held about live/work units in areas like the city center.

-A discussion was held about zoning portions of County Rd 9 and Cty Rd 23 near St Francis as commercial areas. Please circle areas you think should be commercial on the worksheet Mike provided.

M/S Jack Cole/AJ Ondrey to adjourn the meeting at 8:48. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Diane Carpenter