

**Athens Township Planning Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 18, 2024**

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the Athens Township Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM on July 18, 2024 and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

**Planning Commissioners Present**

Todd Christensen, Marlys Balfany, Jack Cole, Jason Ross, AJ Ondrey, Township Clerk Diane Carpenter

**Guests Present**

Three residents attended.

**Approval of Minutes**

M/S Jason Ross/ Marlys Balfany to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2024 meeting as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

**Open Forum**

Tom Freund, a resident of the township, attended to meeting to bring up the matter of sewage spreading in the township. He was not happy that this is being spread right next to his house at least once a week and requests that spreading not be allowed on days where the wind is more than 10 MPH. The board explained that the amount that may be spread depends on the soil. The P&Z board will check on the ordinance and see if there are any wind restrictions and the issue will be addressed further. Concerns were also raised that alfalfa was being cut off of land that had just had sewage spread on it. AJ Ondrey researched the matter and it was determined that it should not be cut for 30 days after the sewage is spread. It was also brought to our attention that people

with campers are just driving out into fields and dumping their sewage.

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### **Public Hearing**

There will be a public hearing in August for Andrew Petran and his berry greenhouse.

### **Old Business**

Signs-issue was tabled until Mike is back from vacation.

### **New Business**

-A discussion was held regarding surveying for the new commercial district. Cost of such a project was discussed. M/S Jack Cole/Marlys Balfany to table the discussion until next month.

-Ideas were presented for the comp plan. Complaints from the past include cancelled meetings and that nothing was ever accomplished when there was a meeting.

It was suggested that another survey be sent to residents based on questions from previous surveys. It could be in the form of a postcard or part of the newsletter. Questions were raised about having a survey on the website vs. the paper ones. It was also suggested that as part of the survey, we ask for parties who are interested in serving on the comp plan committee let us know so that we may have greater community participation and a broader pool of candidates to choose from for the committee.

M/S AJ Ondrey/Marlys Balfany to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Diane Carpenter