

Minutes
Cascade Charter Township
Planning Commission
Composting-Use Sub-Committee
Tuesday May 12, 2022
7:30 A.M.
5920 Tahoe Dr.

- ARTICLE 1.** Member Rissi called the meeting to order at 7:30 A.M.
Members Present: Rissi, Rapin, Deering
Members Absent: Korstange (Excused)
Others Present: Planning Director Brian Hilbrands and Leslie Abdoo (F&S)
- ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda**
Motion was made by Member Deering to approve the current Agenda. Supported by Member Rapin. Motion carried 3 to 0.
- ARTICLE 3. Disclose any Conflicts of Interest**
There weren't any conflicts of interest disclosed.
- ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak on non-agenda items.**
There weren't any visitors who wished to speak.
- ARTICLE 5. Approve minutes of April 29th meeting**
Motion was made by Member Deering to approve the April 29, 2022 minutes a written. Supported by Member Rapin. Motion carried 3 to 0.
- ARTICLE 6. Approve minutes of May 3rd meeting**
Member Deering pointed out that on page two, fourth paragraph. Change 'Member Rissi recommended' and 'she' to 'Member Korstange recommended' 'Member Rissi recommended'.
Motion was made by Member Deering to approve the May 3rd, 2022 minutes with the change on page two. Supported by Member Rapin. Motion carried 3 to 0.
- ARTICLE 7. Review first draft zoning amendments for composting**
There was discussion as to the definition of composting and changing it so that the word 'composting' is not used in the definition. The committee decided to break composting into two groups: onsite composting and commercial composting. Their way to sort out composting for personal use was adding a minimum requirement for the amount of compost processed to be considered an 'onsite' composting use. The lawyer pointed out that they should make sure to include the terms they are defining as uses in the list of acceptable special uses of residential and agriculturally zoned property in other areas of the Zoning Ordinance.

Member Rissi brought up the section on what types of items can be composted. They decided to remove the portion of the definition that included inorganic materials as well as raw waste sewage and sludge.

Planning Director Hilbrands said he reached out to Wormies and they said their compost was 35% food scraps, 25% manures mixed with sawdust or hay, 5% spent mushroom substrate, 20% woodchips and sawdust, 5% leaves, and 20% finished compost. The members discussed how much manure they would allow and if they should include that in the amendment or leave that decision to the commission when approving these permits. They decided to include the statement 'including but not limited to' in the items that can be composted; they changed the 'raw sewage and sludge' to specifically not be permitted with this special use.

Member Rapin liked that the draft conditions didn't allow for the stockpiling of waste.

ARTICLE 8. Next Sub-Committee Meetings Schedule

The next meeting was planned for Thursday, May 12 at 7:30 A.M.

Member Rapin left at 8:38am.

Conversation returned to the conditions and regulations. The committee contemplated regulating volume by the percentage of land used with an annual number of cubic yards that may not be exceeded. For example, not exceeding 3,000 cubic yards annually for a 20-acre parcel. Operations larger than 3,000 cubic yards would require approval on a case-by-case basis. This would allow small to mid-sized vermiculture units to form in Cascade but would require additional approval and information for large facilities to open. There was conversation to consider requiring negative aeration systems like the one Wormies intends on installing to minimize unpleasant odors.

ARTICLE 9. Any Other Business

There was not any other business to discuss.

ARTICLE 10. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak.

There were not any visitors who wished to speak.

ARTICLE 11. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Korstange to adjourn. Supported by Member Deering. Motion carried 3 to 0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Stine, Management Office Administrative Assistant