

Watertown Township  
Planning commission  
Regular Meeting  
March 16, 2017

Members Present: Mark Batkie, Dale Schoen, Gary Fetting, William Dixon and Sheila Coats, and Amanda Aldrich, also present Zoning Administrator, Richard Honaman.

Members Absent: Al Stoutenburg

Guests: Harold & Kristine Howard, Scott & Tami Bradley and Ralph Mata.

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Gary Fetting, Vice Chairman, all present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: Add discussion of changing meeting times to 7:00 PM.

Minutes: Dale Schoen made a motion to approve the February 23, 2017 minutes of the Special Meeting, support by William Dixon, motion carried.

Gary Fetting, Vice Chairman led the meeting beginning with Harold & Kristine Howard wanting to get a Kennel set up for dog boarding. Kristine stated they have had kennel for the last few years and would like to pursue kennel to be used also for dog boarding. Mark Batkie asked if they had a pool as site plan indicated. They have just recently dug a pond. Dale Schoen asked if they have room for 25 for boarding. The Howard's indicated they are currently licensed for 15 and desire an additional 10 for boarding purposes. Discussion on setbacks, should be 50 ft from property line and 150 ft from road. Gary Fetting asked if there had been any complaints so far. Rich Honoman says "Yes, some complaints about dog barking." Owners Harold & Kristine Howard stated they had dogs debarked. The procedure scrapes vocal cords and lessons noise. Mark asked if they have tried anything for sound absorption. Photograph in back is new style they propose to purchase. Boarded dogs would not be debarked. Sliding door would be used to let dogs out periodically and return to building. Boarded dogs will not be outside. Up to 4 dogs for "Doggy Duellies" will be purchased.

Gary asked if any other persons in attendance would like to speak at the meeting. Scott Bradley of 885 S Townline, stated he only received notification of meeting 24 hours prior to meeting. The rules state 15 day notification of meeting. Mr Bradley stated he does not like the noise and has told the Howards he cannot open his windows, and when people visit his home they ask how they put up with that noise! The Howards stated they had planted 25 pine trees last fall for noise and debarked the dogs. William Dixon asked if complaints have occurred since the dogs were debarked. Rich discussed with Scott and thought favorable comments at that time. Harold came to Rich about a week ago and the meeting was already scheduled for tonight. Rather than have a Special Meeting, they agreed to have meeting tonight. Scott has recording of dogs barking and played recording to board from January 1, 2017 (after dogs had been de-barked). Scott Bradley stated today the dogs were totally silent but is sure it is only temporary. William asked duration of barking and howling. Kristine stated