

VIENNA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Monday, July 28th, 2025

Roll Call: Present: Polmanteer, Johnson, White, Thompson, McDowell, Bronson

Additionally Present: Samantha Merchant, Recording Secretary

Jason Hardy

Tonya Hardy

Howard Whitlock

Previous Minutes: Moved by Thompson and supported by McDowell to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, June, 23rd, 2025.

All in favor

Additions/Changes: None

Communications: None

Public Comment: None

New Business: **1. 18-32-300-033; Jason Hardy Pond**

Polmanteer discussed that the pond committee which consists of Polmanteer, McDowell and Thompson had a chance to go visit the site.

Mr. Hardy took the podium and advised that their plan is to dig an 80 x 100 pond that will be about 15 feet deep. On the west side there will be a 20-foot overflow which seems to be the lowest side, if it needs to drain out. The plan is to use the pond for recreational purposes, swimming in the summer, ice fishing or ice skating in the wintertime. They have been looking at an underground aerator to keep it clean instead of having the fountain due to the depth. An eco friendly dye will be used as well.

Polmanteer stated that we had everything well covered with hold harmless agreements and a letter from the insurance company.

McDowell had a question regarding the overflow previously but indicated that has been addressed.

Polmanteer advised that the elevations were reviewed, and the land is flat with no drastic runoff to the other properties and a lot of land around it.

Thompson discussed that EGLE advised that the property does have a tree on it currently that houses endangered bats. This tree is only able to be taken down between September 30th – April 1st. They are looking at starting to dig in mid-October, so this won't be an issue. Thompson read a part of the letter to give more information regarding this federally listed endangered species of the Indiana bat and Northern long-eared bat.

Johnson asked how many feet Hardy is from the property line. Hardy answered that he is 400 feet each way north, east and west and 293 feet to the south.

Thompson confirmed that this will sit on a separate parcel from his house but there is road access to this parcel. Hardy explained that these properties are in the process of being combined.

Polmanteer requests if there was any public comment and then a motion. McDowell makes a motion to approve the request to build a pond at parcel 18-32-300-033. Thompson supports.

**Roll Call Vote, Yes: All
Motion Carries**

Old Business:

Polmanteer mentioned that unfortunately, Planning Commission member, Mike Zinn has passed away. Discussed Zinn's involvement in the community and other organizations in the area. Not official, but there is a replacement in mind and once they are vetted through the Township, he will take the position.

McDowell asked about the EGLE bat endangerment to gain clarification. Thompson and Hardy confirmed that the trees these bats live in can be cut down September 30th - April 1st. McDowell informed this is a major construction season. Thompson discussed that we don't know the exact area of this and that we only know of it in this instance due to the EGLE letter.

Bronson discussed that this is something to do with federal money. It is mandated when federal funds are allocated, that project is when they abide by it.

Adjournment:

Polmanteer adjourned.

Recorded by Samantha Merchant, Building Administrator

Richard Polmanteer
Chairperson

Mary V. Johnson
Secretary