

**HEATH TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**March 2024**

The Heath Township Planning Commission met on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

Members Present:     Don Wickstra  
                             Michael Stork  
                             Michael Phillips  
                             Hilda Boerman

Also present was Planner from Fresh Coast Planning

Absent: Randy Poll

The meeting was called to order by Wickstra. A motion from Phillips supported by Stork to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2024 meeting. Vote taken and unanimously approved.

**ITEM 1**

Wickstra opened the public hearing on the request from Ryan Cosens for SUP at 3544 38<sup>th</sup> Street, also known as parcel number 03-09-002-001-00 and 005-00, to construct and operate an expansion to the existing SUP for the operation of a sawmill within the agricultural zoning district pursuant to Section 5.03 of the Heath Township Zoning Ordinance. Phillips removed himself from discussion as a board member due to conflict of interest because he is neighbor to Post Hardwoods. Ryan explained how Northwest Hardwoods had purchased Post Hardwoods 9 months ago and wanted to expand by adding a new saw to double production which would be housed inside a building that would be added on to the west side of the current building. Neighbors stated concerns with pollution, noise with the debarker, where the trees were coming from that were going into production, if truck traffic would be using different driveways, if hours of operation would remain the same. One neighbor stated that he had no problems with the sawmill. The Board asked if the lumber would continue to be able to be stored behind the building, because they wanted to double production would they be adding staffing, would the new saw make more noise, would hours of operation on the debarker stay the same, would driveways for trucking remain the same, would lighting remain the same. Wickstra closed the floor. The board discussed parking and questioned if there was enough and if there was an ADA compliant spot, if the dumpster was enclosed, Stork stated he would like the Fire Chief to check the new drive all around the building to make sure it meets standards for fire truck tankers. The board talked about noise with a debarker and adding hours for the debarker to keep up with production. Wickstra went through the questions from section 17.03 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), General Discretionary Standards (for Special Uses) and found they were all met. Stork made a motion to approve the SUP as written for parcel 03-09-002-001-00 and 005-00 as the standards were met under section 17.03 (a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f) as read in the document from Professional Code Inspections as well as the following stipulations of adding a defined dumpster area enclosed on plan, Fire Chief approves site plan to meet standards, need to come back to the planning commission to change hours of operation from 6am-3pm or to add a second debarker, show debarker on plan, and make sure that parking meet upgrades per ordinance for

employee numbers and include handicap parking. Boerman gave support. Vote taken, all in favor, motion carried.

## **ITEM 2**

Solar update gave to Fresh Coast to update with changes from Board members and report back at meeting in May.

Next meeting date is May 23, 2024.

Motion by Phillips with support from Stork and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Clerk Missy Harvey