

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
Planning Commission
August 8, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission held at 442 N. Grand Street, Schoolcraft, Michigan was called to order by Vice Chairperson Keith Gunnett at 7:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairperson Rozeboom, Commissioners Smith, Gunnett, and Doorn (7:12 p.m.).

Absent: Commissioner Rochholz.

Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Village Clerk Theresa O'Leary and Bert Gale.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Gunnett, seconded by Smith, to approve the agenda as presented. All aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Gunnett, seconded by Doorn to approve the minutes with the following amendment:

Under NEW BUSINESS. **Change:**

Instead of fence posts being sunk three feet into ground, change to half the **LENGTH** of the fence: i.e. a 6' fence would be sunk 3' into ground

TO READ:

Instead of fence posts being sunk three feet into ground, change to half the **HEIGHT** of the fence: i.e. a 6' fence would be sunk 3' into ground.

CITIZEN'S ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The memorandum from Planner Julie Johnston regarding wording for an updated Fence Ordinance was discussed.

The Planning Commission made the following revisions to the Draft Fence Ordinance:

c. 2. Change to read as follows:

Hedges not more than three feet in height are permitted in front yards of all zones, provided they do not impede traffic visibility.

f.2. Change to read as follows:

Side and rear yards. Wood, brick, vinyl panels, plastic panels, wrought iron, tubular aluminum, 6 ft. tall wooden fence with three horizontal support beams per panel, or other decorative material approved by the Village Manager or their designee.

g. Change to read as follows:

Prohibited materials and/or fence types. Log stockade, slats inserted in chain link fence, barbed wire (except as noted herein), razor wire, electric, scrap wood, metal panels, canvas or cloth fences, poultry fences, turkey wire, temporary plastic fencing, or any material of similar nature not intended for use as a fence or barrier.

h. 1. Change to read as follows:

All fences shall be constructed and supported by its own structural frame system of posts, sunk in the soil half the height of the post, and rails of a suitable material noted herein.

j. Change to read as follows:

Fences and walls may be placed up to the property line. If the property line is located within the road right-of-way, then the fence or wall may be placed up to the road right-of-way line, provided the fence is placed a minimum of 2 feet from the inside edge of the sidewalk. Hedges must be planted and maintained in a way where two feet of clearance exists between the edge of the fully grown mature hedge and the front property line or the road right-of-way line if the property line is located within the road -right-of-way.

k. Change to read as follows:

Barbed wire. Barbed wire fences are prohibited in all residential districts. However, a permit granted by the Village Planning Commission shall be required of those individuals wishing to erect a protective measures fence in a non-residential district. Such permit shall be granted only after demonstration of the need of such fence. When such protective measures fence employs barbed wire along the uppermost edge, the minimum height for such fence below the barbed wire extension shall be six feet.

l. 2. Change to read as follows:

All fences shall be maintained in good, safe, and stable condition to include being reasonably plumb, straight and true. Rotten, broken, or missing components shall be replaced or repaired immediately.

Bert Gale from Associated Government Services made the following statements:

- He defined a front yard as the front of the building to the right-of-way line.
- He defined a required front yard as the set back.

The Planning Commission will set a Public Hearing date at the next meeting to allow time to review the revisions made to the Fence Ordinance listed herein.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

Communications:

None.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Josh Rozeboom
Planning Commission Chairperson

Theresa O'Leary, Village Clerk