

PROPOSED MINUTES
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
4338 BEELINE ROAD
ALLEGAN COUNTY
HOLLAND, MI 49423
(616) 335-3050

MARCH 2, 2022

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Randy Becksvort called the planning commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Becker, Randy Becksvort, Jim Johnson,
Chad Nienhuis, Marcia Perry

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin -- Township manager
Ron Bultje – Township attorney
Jim Hayden – Public information officer
Doug Den Bleyker -- Graafschap Fire Department chief

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion by Johnson, second by Becker, to approve the minutes of the Jan. 5, 2022, meeting.
UNANIMOUS DECISION VOICE VOTE – MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

ARTICLE III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Kaletka Special Use Request

David and Cheryl Kaletka, 6364 144th Ave., Holland, parcel # 0311-014-015-00, zoned R-1, request for a special use permit to operate an adaptive educational farm for children and adults with disabilities. The site is called Fellinlove Farm. Cheryl Kaletka said the facility has been operational for about 11 years and a non-profit 501(c)(3) since 2017. The Kaletkas also asked for a 32-foot by 24-foot barn-like structure (roof but no walls) for horse riding.

The issue was tabled at the January meeting because commissioners wanted more information including documentation of hours, special events, signage, maximum attendance, what the trail looks like and parking plans.

Cheryl Kaletka reviewed information and photos she sent to the commission.

Commissioners discussed the request.

Becker said he would like consistent hours, suggested no Sunday hours and possibly visitation by appointment only.

Nienhuis was concerned about the water activities in ponds.

Perry was concerned about hours so neighbors will know when it will be quiet. She also asked about limits on visitors and Kaletka said it can be 50 or more. Perry asked about the number of animals, saying the township needs to have the correct number to know if the farm has surpassed limits.

Johnson asked if special use can be revoked if in violation of agreement; Bultje said yes. Johnson also noted the addition of signs about noise and noted that a fence along the trail could help control noise and said no more animals than are now on the property be allowed.

Becksvoort suggested operation of five or six days a week, limits to number of visitors and better marking of trails. He does not want people in the ponds.

Motion by Johnson, second by Nienhuis, to instruct attorney Ron Bultje to draft a resolution/report approving the special use request for consideration at the April meeting. UNANIMOUS DECISION VOICE VOTE – MOTON APPROVED 5-0.

ARTICLE IV. NEW BUSINESS – None

ARTICLE V. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mary Jo Bertolino, 6362 144th Ave.: Neighbor. Never hears noise. Shortened hours of operation will limit how much money the farm can collect and will limit money needed to pay for animal food.

Kathy Kingsley, 4363 64th St.: Neighbor. Appreciated what the planning commission is doing. There is noise. She said she can no longer conduct Bible study and meditation classes anymore due to noise. Supports privacy fence, limited hours and limits to number of visitors.

Mitra Delaney, 6298 144th Ave.: Supports Fellinlove Farm. She says there is hardly any noise.

David Kaletka, 6364 144th Ave.: Farm is a nonprofit, not a business.

ARTICLE VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Perry, second by Becker, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. UNANIMOUS DECISION VOICE VOTE – MOTION APPROVED 5-0.