

Sugar Island Twp Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
5/11/5

Present: Lorraine Carpentier, Bob Johnson, Terry Menard, John Odell, Bud Willis

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm. Twp Attorney Mark Dobias was present to field questions from contractors and concerned citizens about the sand and gravel ordinance. The issue centered on the term "ponds". Since ponds are not mentioned in the zoning ordinance, it seems that sand and gravel have historically been removed from the island under the guise of creating a pond instead of a gravel pit. After receiving citizen complaints, the twp planning commission reviewed the existing ordinance and gave the opinion to the twp supervisor that since the ordinance defined "gravel and sand pit" as any place where sand and gravel were removed, that digging a "pond" did not exempt one from obtaining a sand and gravel permit and abiding by the existing minimum size and setback standards. Mr. Dobias fielded questions from concerned citizens. In summary, his opinion was that use of the term "pond" would not exempt one from extracting sand and gravel without complying with the twp sand and gravel ordinance. Mr. Dobias also recommended that the twp consider hiring a professional firm to review the twp planning commission's revised zoning ordinance to avoid future costly litigation.

During the discussion, Odell suggested that it may be possible for the township to issue a temporary permit while the planning commission revised and improved the existing ordinance. Mr. Dobias agreed to consider this and give the twp an opinion within a week. The twp planning commission agreed to give this ordinance top priority since this was the beginning of the construction season for island contractors. It was also agreed that the commission would be willing to work directly with any 3 contractors in developing the revised ordinance. The next meeting was changed from May 18 to May 25, 7pm at the twp hall. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20pm.

Notes submitted by John Odell.