

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2020 at 7PM

PRESENT: Town Board Supervisor Liaison Chair Mike McMahon, Supervisor Sheila-Marie Untiedt, Park Members Vanessa Barvels, Barb Stahlmann and Jenni Maes. Clerk Kathy Schmoeckel, Newsletter Editor Kimberly Cole and Deputy Clerk Barbara Riehle. Guest Resident Robert Wroble.

REGULAR MEETING via Zoom

1. **AGENDA** – Moved to adopt the agenda as written. M/S/P Schmoeckel/Stahlmann
2. **MINUTES** – Moved to approve 06-30-2020 meeting minutes as written.
M/S/P Schmoeckel/Stahlmann

3. **NEWSLETTER**

The following Ideas for the newsletter were discussed:

- **Presidential General Election** – November 3, 2020. Clerk Kathy Schmoeckel encourages voters to consider voting an absentee ballot to avoid long lines and social distancing rules. The ballot will contain voting for Congress, Senate, School Board, Statewide and Local Offices. There are three Town Board Supervisor seats up for re-election (Sheila-Marie Untiedt, Rod Hunter and Tim Sinclair) Rod Hunter will not be on the ballot. Planning Commission Member Robert Geisen will be on the ballot as well as Sheila-Marie Untiedt and Tim Sinclair. Each running unopposed. Kimberly could interview each with a photo for the newsletter.
- **Email Subscriber List Info** – Kimberly Cole reported 174 email addresses. 63% opened the email and 34% of those clicked within the content. There was further conversation on how the township can reach more residents to sign up. We could always opt to mail the newsletter again. Kimberly will look into the cost for that.
- **Town Clerk Position** – Details of the position are posted on our website. The position will begin Jan 4, 2021. Interested individuals should apply by November 1, 2020. Questions should be directed to Clerk Kathy Schmoeckel. It was also suggested to post position information on Facebook, Nextdoor and other social media platforms.
- **Internet** - MN Broadband Speed Test Initiative (posted to website and social media) We are encouraging residents to take the speed test. Supervisor Sheila-Marie Untiedt shared specific information regarding the 6-year history with Century Link and the empty promises which were made. She has met with Century Link staff multiple times where each time promises were made and not executed. We are left with the thought that they are not interested in investing in old technology but instead are waiting for the 5G. We are in an Urban Township within the seven-county metro area which limits some of the programs we would qualify for. We have talked with competitors to

Century Link and none are interested in investing in our community since we are not a dense population. The technicians who work within the township have been great and are doing the best they can.

Town Board Supervisor Mike McMahon mentioned that he had talked with other communities (Marine on St Croix/May) and that they were also interested at that time in looking for other options for better internet connectivity. He will revisit this issue with them again to see where they are at. More research on cooperatives should be done.

Township Resident Robert Wroble was present to offer his thoughts and suggestions. He would be on board with the idea of getting together with other communities to get Fiber Optic Lines. He believes it would make our community more attractive and increase our property values.

Committee members believe it's too late to add a survey/poll to this election but ideas of a future survey/poll by postcard could be done to gauge township community interest. Other options are definitely welcome.

- Article on removing vines - Supervisor Bonnie Haines who is a certified Arborist wrote briefly on the importance of removing vines. The article was shared with Kimberly Cole our newsletter editor. Deputy Clerk Barbara Riehle added that the library has interesting hour-long classes such as "How to Raise a Shade Tree" and "How to Grow the Best Garlic", individuals can check out details on the Stillwater Library website.
- Retirement Interviews - Kimberly Cole was encouraged to connect with both Kathy Schmoeckel and Rod Hunter. In addition, others will be contacted for a statement of their service to the community.
- Recognition – There was a brief discussion on the idea of honoring our retirees with planting a couple of Maple trees at Otto Berg Park in the spring. Deputy Clerk Barbara Riehle will bring this idea back to the Park Committee at their next meeting. It would then need to go through our Town Board Supervisors for final approval on any funding necessary. Other ideas are also welcome.
- Social Media –Any pertinent information and seasonally appropriate information that comes from our Police Chief, Clerks or Committees are shared. Our newsletter Editor, Kimberly Cole reached out to our Planner and continues to work with Nextdoor. Kimberly would also like to become an administrator to merge our inactive and active Facebook accounts.
- Recycling Insert – We did not apply for Grant funding for 2020. We can apply for the 2021 Grant. Kimberly Cole is already working with the County on this.
- Fall Clean Up Date -There has been chatter of interest in a fall clean up day on social media but nothing is planned at this time. Park Manager Kelley Shantz is making effort to connect with Maroney's to see if they have any interest.
- Email Blasts – Emails can be sent to resident subscribers as reminders come up.
- Publication – The newsletter should hit mailboxes and emails by Mid-October.

4. WEBSITE

- Contact Information - Clerk Kathy Schmoeckel explained that it was decided to have residents contact the Clerk or the Town Board Supervisors first to see if questions could be answered. If not, then they could contact the Planner directly. This was a way to keep the township costs down.
- GIS Mapping – Park committee members will be meeting in the future on creating an updated map of parks and trails. After it is complete, it will become available to the public.

5. OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ Google Analytics – Deputy Clerk Barbara Riehle will continue to collect the data and have it ready by the end of the year for the annual meeting in March 2021.
- ❖ Domain – We will be looking into what needs to be done to transfer the township domain and the ability to link emails, etc. Committee Members were in agreement that the Township should be in control not any one person.

6. NEXT MEETING – January 2021**7. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM. M/S/P Schmoeckel/Barvels.**

Submitted by: Deputy Clerk Barbara Riehle