

## Germantown ZBA Minutes

August 15, 2019

Members in attendance: Chairwoman Teresa Repko, Ed Colwell, AmyJo Davison and Joe Guida.

Meeting is opened at 7:01 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of July 18, 2019 are reviewed and on a motion by Ed, seconded by AmyJo, are accepted as written with all in favor and none opposed.

There were no Public Hearings to be held.

Applications:

**Use Variance:** Lorraine Hejnal appeared before the ZBA seeking a Use Variance to continue the raising of pigs at her property located at 258 Main Street, Germantown. Her daughter Leeanne spoke on her behalf and stated that the family has been raising pigs at their home for 20 years and did not know it was not a permitted use. The family has 7 pigs that are kept in a 16 X 24 foot pen that is the recommended size by Cornell and Penn State, they are a not for profit organization, she herself is a 4H leader and that although the pen used is of size for 7-9 pigs they stated should their pigs get larger they would increase the size of the current pen, concluding that their purpose is for educational and teaching purposes.

The Board proceeded to review the application of the Hejnal's in regards to how the smell from the animals is reduced/handled, manure management, the schedule of pen cleaning, breeding, sanitation, the scheduled time the pigs are on the property, and how many properties they abut. The applicant responded that the pens are cleaned weekly, disinfected and sanitized, the area is drained and the smell dissipates, the manure is used for fertilizer, the pigs spend most of the time in dirt to keep cool, but that a concrete slab is present. No breeding is conducted, new pigs are purchased annually in April/May and then leave in September for the fair. There are no pigs present on the property from September to March, and concluded that they do share a driveway and "believe they abut 5 properties".

Chairwoman Teresa requested the Board be allowed to conduct Site Visits, and a copy of information from Cornell be submitted to the ZBA. The Hejnals approved site visits and requested to be notified.

Motion to set Public Hearing for September 19, 2019 is made by AmyJo, seconded by Ed with all in favor and none opposed. This application is not exempt from Resolution #33 and will be referred to the Columbia County Planning Board.

Old Business:

The Board is in favor of Checklists to be utilized for applications, requested for attorney review and recommendations.

New Business:

Chairwoman Teresa informed the board that new Policy/Procedures were approved for the ZBA and a copy can be made for members who request one.

Motion is made by Ed to appoint Joe Guida as Acting Chairman in the absence of Chairwoman Teresa Repko, seconded by Amy, with all in favor and none opposed.

On a motion by Ed, seconded by Joe, with all in favor and none opposed this meeting is adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Jami L. DelPozzo- Planning and Zoning Secretary