

**TOWNSHIP of OTISCO**  
***Preliminary Meeting Minutes***  
**AMENDED 11-8-2021**

**ZONING BOARD of APPEALS**

**MINUTES for October 11, 2021**

**Members Present:** Joe Tarkowski – ZBA Board Member; John Feuerstein – ZBA Board Member, Laura Staats – ZBA Board Secretary,  
Also present: Ethan Walthorn – Zoning Board Administrator,

**Call to Order:** Joe Tarkowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Agenda:** Motion made to approve the Agenda as written. Passed 3 - 0

**Approve Minutes:** Minutes, from the July 12, 2021 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made and supported,  
Motion Passed 3 - 0

**Board Reports**

**Zoning:**

Zoning Administrator, Walthorn reviewed the written zoning report and gave brief updates on closed issues and those that he continues to work on. For more information see the written Zoning Report.

**Township Board:**

Township business was discussed, which included road improvements, mowing, and future trimming of trees along the roadways.

**Planning Commission:** Discussion of expansion to Extruded Aluminum, Bigby Coffee coming to Belding, event barn on M-44.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Public hearing open 7:13 pm** 8723 Jenks Road, Belding, MI 48809 parcel # 34-130-006-000-030-01, the home owner would like to add a 24 by 30 additional stalls onto his garage including personal workspace of 16 by 33, that does not meet the property side yard setbacks requirements as stated in zoning rules in section 1.420. As well as a 30 by 36 pole building in the southwest corner of his yard. Granting this variance would give him the relief needed for construction. **Public hearing closed 7:17 pm**

**Discussion:** There was a brief discussion between the board members. Two members have visited the property and spoken with the home owner. The neighboring property is an apple orchard and the owner of the orchard, Ronald Rasch, has submitted a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals stating that he is aware of the proposed buildings that Mr. Braman plans to construct and that it poses no problem to his business operation. He is in support of the Zoning Board of Appeals granting Mr. Braman his variance.

The Motion was made to grant the request for a variance to allow Mr. Braman to construct an additional garage space with a workshop plus a pole barn at 8723 Jenks Road, Belding, MI 48809 on parcel # 34-130-006-000-030-01. The granting of this motion gives Mr. Braman relief from section 1.420 and the required minimum side yard setbacks, as the side yard does not open onto a public roadway. As part of this decision a copy of Mr. Rasch's letter must be kept on file with this written decision.

**Determination:** Mr. Braman's variance has been granted and past with a vote 3 – 0 as written.

**Public Comment:** None

**Member Comment:** "Is there a reason we have to have a December meeting?" Laura reviewed the ZBA By-Laws section by section. There is no place in the By-Laws that state which month's meeting must be held. There is a statement on the rear of the Agenda page that reads, "\*The underlined meeting dates are scheduled mandatory business meetings and may include study or training sessions if there are no appeals or other business on the agenda." After a brief discussion it was suggested that we move the mandatory December meeting to November.

A motion was made and seconded to do so for 2021 and all future years. Laura is to notify Desmond of the change.

**Proposed Agenda:** If no business to conduct consider reviewing files from vault.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn the meeting, Passed: 3 - 0  
Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM

**Next Meeting:** Next scheduled meeting November 8, 2021 meeting at 7:00 PM at the Otisco Township Hall, is a mandatory business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura J Staats, Secretary