



Honey Brook Township Dog Kennel Task Force

Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, October 9, 2017

Meeting began at 7 pm on Wednesday, October 9, 2017. John McHugh and Amos Kauffman started the meeting and discussed the goals for the evening.

1. Select a dog kennel task force committee.
2. Determine how many people will make up the committees.
3. Since we don't have a formal task force rules to follow, we are making up rules as we go along.
4. Review the Honey Brook Township Ordinance.
5. Recommendations for Board of Supervisors in December.

Steve Landes, Township Manager, provided copies of the Honey Brook Township Ordinance entitled "Honey Brook Township Code of Ordinances Excerpts from Chapter 27 – Zoning (pertaining to kennels)" which were distributed to everyone. John McHugh thanked everyone for coming out to attend this evening and stated that this meeting is the continuation of two previous meetings.

Committee Members

Meeting Facilitator: Amos Kauffman

Becky Ricci

Janne Ruffini

Terry Schmidt

Kirk Ruffini

Abner Stoltzfus

Liz Purring

Leslie Siebert

Benuel M. Kauffman

Levi Kauffmann

Benuel S. Stoltzfus

Melissa Needles

There were over forty residents attending.

Amos Kauffman moderated the meeting. Amos wanted to assemble a Task Force committee before moving on with the meeting. Committee was formed consisting of 11, possibly 12 members. It was suggested that someone from the Planning Commission be on the Task Force since they are familiar with the ordinances of the Township. The residents who volunteered to serve on the committee were given a sign in sheet and assembled in the front panel seating.

John McHugh said need some structure to running the Task Force was needed.

First call of business a discussion of what surrounding municipalities are doing:

- Becky Ricci stated some ordinances have similarities and some are different
- Setbacks were different than Honey Brook Township
- Noise decibel needs to be incorporated into ordinance

Next topic the Committee was asked what concerns each had and what issues should be addressed:

- Abner Stoltzfus – make sure barrier to block noise
- Liz Purring – does the size of the dogs make a difference
- Leslie Siebert – very strong animal advocate and environmentalist
- Benuel Stoltzfus – what is an acceptable number dogs per acreage
- Melissa Needles – we should also look at state regulations
- Levi Kauffman – acreage and setbacks

John McHugh stated we need to explore what the appropriate setback is.

Suggested we do comparisons against other municipalities but need to compare with townships similar to Honey Brook, such as Lower Oxford that are mostly in agricultural use.

Copies of “The Honey Brook Township Code of Ordinances Excerpts from Chapter 27 – Zoning (pertaining to kennels)” were given to each Task Force member and each section was read aloud and commented on:

27-202

Definitions:

- Boarding Kennel - Clarified that this discussion does not pertain to boarding kennels.
- Kennel – Recommended to rewrite due to integrity of definition of kennel.
- Conditional Use – OK, no changes.

Permitted Zoning Districts:

- Need to add commercial use to ordinances.

27-1064

(1) Purpose:

- Steve Landes to generate copies for next meeting from Department of Agriculture (Ref. Section 459-207).

(2) Applicability:

- (a) Boarding kennel information should be moved over to another ordinance.
 - If property commercial or industrial use, kennel would be used as an accessory use.
- (b) If two families on same property, must have two separate tax ID numbers.
- If commercial kennel license no need to have two kennels because of no limit on number of dogs for commercial kennel.

- 6 dogs is considered a kennel, 5 dogs no restriction of property size
- State enforces use of kennel, Township enforces size of land.
- State comes out 2 times/year to inspect kennels. Within 48 hours of birth of puppies, need to have paperwork for state.
- (c) Need clarification between breeding kennel, boarding kennel and animal shelter.

(3) No changes

- (a) No changes
- (b) Site plans should have proper information with actual dimensions, placement, flood plains, buffering (how many decibels of noise is permitted), “outside run area” (how many dogs can have outdoor access and what clarify what state determines to be number of hours a day dog can be outside). As of now state deems 24 hours/day.

(4) Clarify township requires permit and will give only once kennel has met all requirements.

- Question raised by Benuel Kauffman about being grandfathered in.
 - o Melissa Needles said older buildings won’t meet code anymore, therefore, cannot grandfather them in.
- Question arose inquiring when Township set ordinances in place regarding kennels use and occupancy permit for structures.
- Township to follow up on Sam Stoltzfus permit lapse.

(5a) What is considered to be fair amount of minimum acreage.

- o Some suggestions: less than 10 acres, 5 acres/5 dogs and above 5 acres, no limit on number of dogs.
- State and Township need to be consistent with regulations.

(b) Recommendations for setbacks.

- o Abner Stoltzfus suggested 60-foot setback
- o John McHugh brought up need to address buffering

(c) No changes

(d) No changes

Abner Stoltzfus asked if all who are operating kennels today could be grandfathered in. This matter will be looked into.

In conclusion, John McHugh stated we need to figure out what’s right and determine what’s wrong and correct it.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday (10/18) at 7:00 p.m.