

ATHENS TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD

March 24, 2015

Zoning Hearing Board members in attendance were: Solicitor, Gerard A. Zeller, Esq., John Baird, Rita Jo Swingle, Walt Haggerty, Alternate, Cindy Parrish, Zoning Officer, and Secretary, Elaine Daddona. Diane Marvin was unavailable. Stenographer was Shauna Potter of Verbatim Reporting. Sign-in sheet was available for all others in attendance and is hereby attached.

Chairman John Baird called the meeting to order at 6:32PM. Motion by Rita Jo Swingle to approve the Minutes of December 23, 2014 as read, second by Walt Haggerty and motion unanimously carried.

Bruce Carpenter

Parcel #09-020.13-028-000-000

Application for Variance

The applicant seeks a variance to construct a metal carport-free standing garage on the vacant property, and such other relief as determined by the Zoning Hearing Board.

Cindy Parrish, Zoning Officer, presented the application to the Zoning Hearing Board members for the vacant property located on the corner of Kirby Street and Glen Valley Road, Athens Township, Pennsylvania, zoned Rural Center District.

Chairman Baird asked Cindy Parrish if the Athens Township Supervisors had made any statement regarding this application, and she commented "None she was aware of". Testimony of the applicant, Bruce Carpenter, who was represented by Attorney William Alan Shaw, began at 6:37PM. The applicant stated that he would like to construct a metal carport structure to store his camper and tractor. He explained that for the past three years, those item have been exposed to the weather due to the fact he had no facility to store them. Mr. Carpenter submitted photos of his property to illustrate the fact that he could not build on his residential property due to the fact there would be no access to the structure. He submitted a photo of the proposed 24 by 31 foot carport. Mr. Carpenter explained that the vacant property for the structure was currently owned by his brother, Brian Carpenter, who does not live in the area and had given him a notarized letter of his approval to occupy the property with this building. Also submitted were letters from the surrounding residential property owners that they had no objection to this proposal. Testimony concluded at 6:58PM.

Executive session to reach a Decision began at 7:00PM and concluded at 7:15PM.

The applicant and Attorney William Alan Shaw agreed to waive the 24-hr. time constraint to receive a written Decision for this application.

A roll-call vote was taken of the Zoning Hearing Board regarding a Decision to approve the application for a variance to construct a 24 by 31ft. carport/garage for storage on the vacant lot and was a unanimous "Yes" vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM, as there was no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine J. Daddona, Secretary