

Canosia Township

4896 Midway Road
Duluth, Minnesota 55811
Voice/Fax 218-729-9833

Town Board: Chair Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Kevin L. Comnick, Supervisor Daniel J. Golen
Clerk Susan Krasaway, Treasurer Cheryl Borndal

Special Meeting Minutes: Waste Wood Recycling Discussion

November 4, 2020

ATTENDING: Chair Kurt Brooks, Supervisor Kevin Comnick, Supervisor Dan Golen, Clerk Susan Krasaway, Waste Wood Recycling Owner Garrett Campbell, Canosia Residents Jim & Karla Kukowski, Jim Gilmore and Mike Podgornik.

Chair Brooks called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and stated the purpose: to host a meeting to potentially open a line of communication between Waste Wood Recycling and their neighbors David & Karla Kukowski and Jim Gilmore following the neighbors' recent complaints to St. Louis County about operating hours and noise.

The board thanked everyone for their willingness to participate and noted that SLC found no compliance issues at the site after reviewing the complaints and will not be taking any enforcement action. The supervisors expressed their dismay that the county did not acknowledge our request for additional information on how they came to their decision and were disappointed to learn that SLC has not communicated any of the complaints directly to Campbell to foster progress prior to this meeting.

Jake Braking Noise Complaints

Campbell explained the necessity of jake braking with a heavy load and explained his company policy: he leaves it up to the drivers to employ jake brakes at their discretion for safety purposes. However, given the noise concerns and some obvious tension between the neighbors and drivers, he will revisit the issue with his team to ensure they make efforts to be neighborly without compromising safety.

Operating Hours

The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) outlines the hours for the gravel pit operations and also limits crushing, grinding and stockpiling; Campbell adheres to these rules. However, there is also a logging operation that has no limitations on operating hours.

The Kukowskis have stated that trucks come and go at all hours of the night. Campbell said that 2-3x/week during the summer, one of his logging trucks must leave at about 3 a.m. to get to Grand Marais; however, he is not aware of why any of his other trucks would be coming and going in the middle of the night. There are two other nearby gravel pits and Campbell is concerned he may be being blamed for noise that is not his. The Kukowskis said the trucks are coming directly out of his property.

Campbell does lock/chain his gate daily; he opens the gate himself when he arrives at 5 a.m. each day. He has had problems with broken locks and trespassers.

Buffer/Barrier

The Kukowski's asked whether Campbell could reconstruct a buffer between his property and the road. Campbell stated that the 40 acres in the front of his property are nearly depleted and he will soon begin the process of refilling it and dividing the lots to ideally sell off for homes.

Dust Control

Gilmore expressed concern about road dust in August/September. Campbell pays to have calcium chloride applied to the road and made note of Gilmore's complaint to adjust as needed next summer.

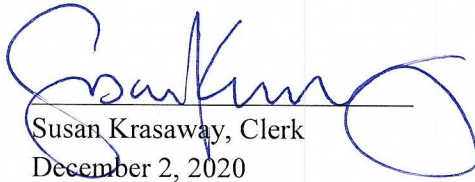
Moving Forward

The Kukowskis do not feel comfortable approaching Campbell at his business with future concerns but asked him directly to be cognizant of his neighbors as much as possible. Comnick offered to be the go-between moving forward; if the neighbors have future concerns, he is willing to communicate them directly to Garrett.


Campbell said he will do his best to find a balance between being a neighbor and using his land to operate his business within his rights to do so.

The board adjourned the meeting just before 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Krasaway, Clerk
December 2, 2020

APPROVED:


Kurt Brooks, Chair
December 2, 2020