

**Berrien Township Zoning Board of Appeals
Meeting Minutes for March 7, 2017**

**The Berrien Township Zoning Board of Appeals met Tuesday, March 7, 2017,
7:00 p.m. at the Berrien Township Hall, Berrien Center, Michigan.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ron Harner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman - Ron Harner, Vice-Chairman - Mark Coulston, Secretary - Bill Zebell and Sonya Bailey

Members Absent: Jeff Marks

Others Present: Supervisor Bryan Bixby, Recording Secretary - Rebecca Stephenson, Gary and Brenda Yerington, Brian Mainguy

MINUTES

Motion by Mark Coulston, supported by Sonya Bailey, to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2016 Zoning Board of Appeals as written. **All in favor, motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers:

Motion by Mark Coulston, supported by Bill Zebell, to nominate Ron Harner as Chairman. **Ron Harner abstained, the rest of board in favor. Motion carried.**

Motion by Bill Zebell, supported by Ron Harner, to nominate Mark Coulston as Vice-Chairman. **Mark Coulston abstained, the rest of board in favor. Motion carried.**

Motion by Ron Harner, supported by Mark Coulston, to nominate Bill Zebell as Secretary. **Bill Zebell abstained, the rest of board in favor. Motion carried.**

Meeting Dates:

Motion by Sonya Bailey, supported by Bill Zebell, to accept the 2017-18 Meeting Dates as presented with the exception of the July meeting to be changed from the 4th to the 5th. **All in favor, motion carried.**

**Case Number #17-001 ~ Parcel #11-04-0001-0007-02-3 (3.310 acres)
Gary & Brenda Yerington, 9080 M-62, Eau Claire, MI 49111**

The meeting was recessed to open the Public Hearing at 7:29 p.m.

Gary and Brenda Yerington were present. Mrs. Yerington informed the board that they would like to put a home on their property for their son Gary who is 46 years old and has been diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis which has led to tetraplegia. He is in need of constant care. Gary is in a motorized wheel chair and unable to get in or out of the chair on his own. He had been in Chicago for rehabilitation but has been discharged and receives therapy in Dowagiac. His state may or may not improve, at the current time his progress if any is undetermined. His wife maintains her full time job and he is left alone in his wheelchair during the day. They are unable to receive home care and rely on family and friends for assistance.

A letter from Gary Yerington's doctor from the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago was provided to the board.

Chairman Ron Harner explained that a modular home cannot be put on the site. There cannot be two permanent homes on a single parcel; although a temporary mobile home could be approved in the case of a hardship. The other possibilities would be a land division on the property that would allow them to build a home or install a modular or build an addition to the existing home to accommodate additional living space. An additional well and septic may be required.

There was one phone call from an adjoining property owner stating they did not have a problem with the request. Beyond that no other comments, phone calls or letters received at the township hall concerning this case.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:13 p.m. The meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals reconvened.

300.403 of the Zoning Ordinance for a Temporary Dwelling letter D. states that a Temporary Dwelling may be allowed for residents with medical exceptions.

Motion by Mark Coulston, supported by Bill Zebell, to grant the request for a temporary dwelling in order to assist in caring for their son due to his medical condition which requires constant care. **All in favor, motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mark Coulston, supported by Sonya Bailey, to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. **All in favor, motion carried.**

Minutes as recorded by Rebecca Stephenson, Zoning Board of Appeals Recording Secretary and approved by:

Bill Zebell, Secretary
Zoning Board of Appeals