

Oakland Township Sentinel

Weekly Report – Sunday, May 16, 2021

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Top Stories

Birch Grove Academy Construction Continues at 2878 North Rochester Rd. without Special Land-Use Approval from Oakland Township; Court Hearing Set for Wednesday May 26.



This photo was taken Tuesday morning May 12th from the Rochester Road right-of-way (no trespassing was involved). The separate building modules have now been moved into place on a foundation. On May 11th workers were up on the roof.

Hopefully, the Kelly Firm legal team has an effective argument prepared for dealing with this situation at the hearing scheduled for Wednesday, May 26th, 8:30 AM in Oakland County 6th District Court before Judge Martha D. Anderson

We will continue to monitor for new court records here:

<https://courtexplorer.oakgov.com/OaklandCounty>

At \$1 per page we have decided not to order the 98 page township argument document.

Artemis Subcommittee

Before the May 11 Special Meeting was called to order, Treasurer John Giannangeli told Trustee Dave Mabry that he would be calling him and Trustee Lana Mangiapane soon about this. I assume this means that Township Manager Kline and others have rejected my opinion / suggestion that these meetings should take place open to the public.

Public Body Meetings

“High interest” upcoming agenda items

“High interest” means to me an agenda item that in my past experience (since 2013) have attracted residents to meetings with spirited comment (if they became aware of the agenda item).

These have been:

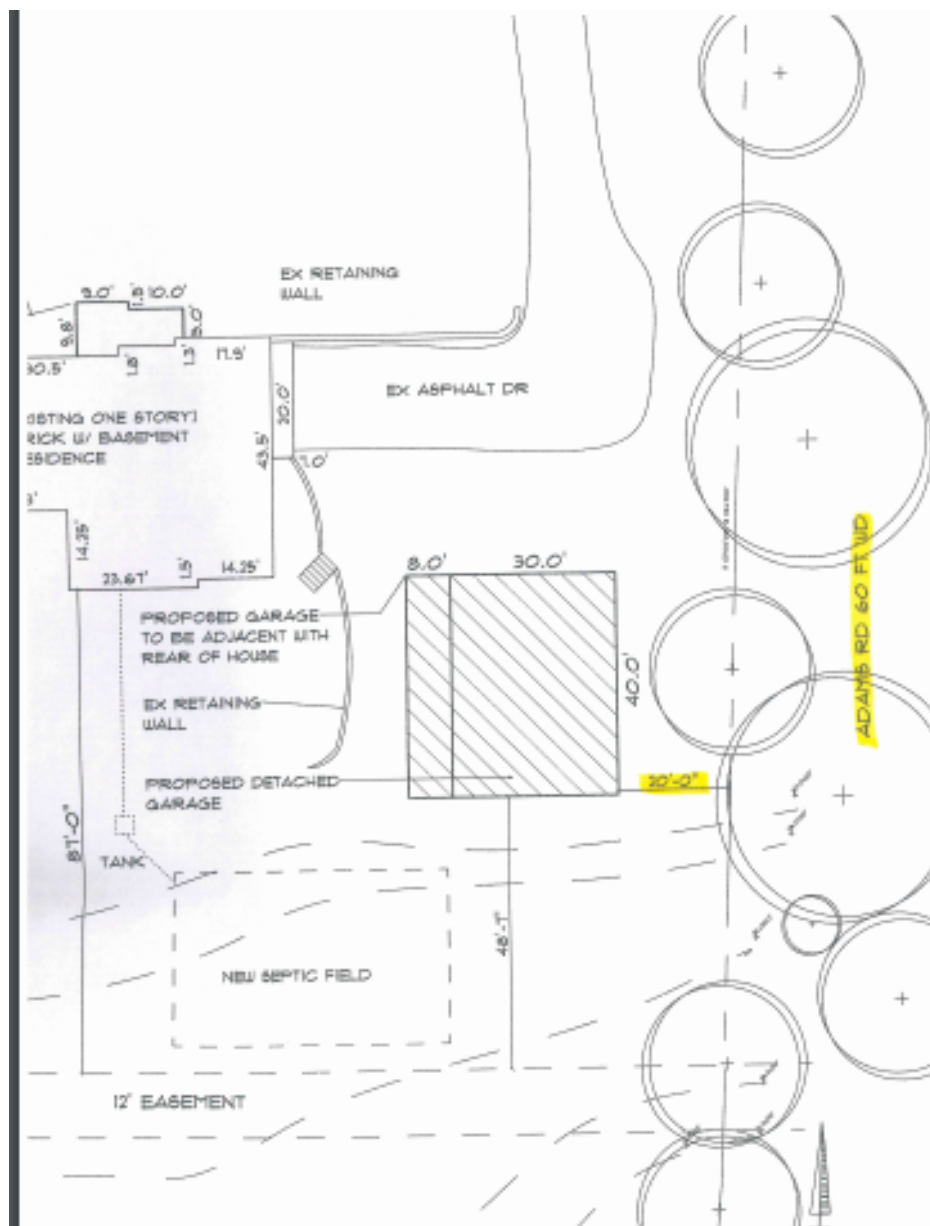
- Any development, residential or commercial
- Zoning changes or variances requested
- Changes or construction in any park
- Water storage tanks
- Ordinances (new or revised); especially Zoning Ordinance #16
- Fire Department Personnel Decisions
- Board disagreements / conflict with Parks and Recreation Commission
- Paint Creek Dam and Millrace Water Flow Restoration
- Consent agreement changes (example: Rochester Cider Mill)

Homeowner requests variance; to be heard at 5/18 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting

- a. ZBA21-05 Peter Bolcato – A 30' front yard variance and to allow an accessory building in the front yard. 3031 Paint Creek Drive.

Details at this link: <https://ecode360.com/documents/OA3183/public/601968078.pdf>

Proposed Site drawing below:



Board of Trustees, May 11 (2 meetings - Special Meeting and Regular Meeting)

The Board had a Special Meeting starting at 5 PM. I attended, as is every citizen's right, until a motion to go into closed session was approved. I could have made a 3 minute comment if I had desired to do so during the legally required public comment section of the agenda.

The regular meeting went from 7 PM to 8:34 PM. As there were no items requiring urgent reporting, in my opinion, I will wait to report on both meetings until the draft minutes are available. Then I will post the draft minutes here with any comments I have to further explain each item, if needed.

Michigan State Legislature

Mark Twain supposedly said, *"No man is safe while the legislature is in session"*. We can update that for the year 2021 to say *"no man or woman"*.

I am working on the best way to monitor and report on the legislature's activities. The legislature's website allows one to easily sign up for email alerts following individual bills, individual legislator activities and committee meeting activities. [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(sdjut5h5xloxq4obxpda4hlq\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=home](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(sdjut5h5xloxq4obxpda4hlq))/mileg.aspx?page=home)

It appears to me that the most effective method is to follow several committees in the House and Senate that are most likely to consider bills that reduce our freedom as a township to define our own ordinances. Unwise bills can be killed at the committee level by effective testimony.

For example, townships, by state law have no legal right to control fracking (unlike cities).

Another example is the Right-to-Farm Act year 2000 amendments that emerged unscathed from agriculture committees. This essentially allows livestock facilities to be located in our township on the approval of a single Dept of Agriculture

individual with our Township having no say in the matter and no public hearing. Sounds like the system in communist China. Where were we when this was being debated and passed?

In a current example, bills keep being introduced to prohibit us from making any ordinance banning a specific dog bred, such as Waterford Township did in 1990 banning dangerous Pit Bulls. Oakland Township residents have testified at committee hearings opposing such restrictions on our township's freedom to make our own ordinances. But where has our local government and Michigan Township Association been? Such bills are being pushed by some well-funded pro Pitt Bull lobbyists.

It seems the weapon of choice for any lobbyist organization wanting special treatment is to get the state pass laws making townships powerless to prevent whatever the lobbying organization wants to do.

If I see a bill in committee that I think we need to oppose, I'll report it here. I think once it gets out of committee for a floor vote, it is often too late.

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting May 12

The meeting lasted 1-1/2 hours. I watched the video. As there were no items requiring urgent reporting, I will wait to report until the draft minutes are available. Then I will post the draft minutes here with any comments I have to further explain each item, if needed. The minutes are always very complete and don't need any additional explanation, except possibly for some background information for those "joining the party late."

What is an item requiring urgent reporting? Any decisions or discussion that result in a controversial decision or will lead to one soon requires immediate reporting to allow residents as much time as possible to react. Otherwise residents' earliest opportunity to be informed, other than by watching the entire meeting, is in draft minutes legally due in 8 working days or summaries posted in Rochester Post (Board meetings only).

Recent and Upcoming Public Body Meetings and links to documents and videos										
Date	Time	Public Body	Agenda	Packet - 1	Packet - 2	Minutes - Draft	Minutes - Approved	Video	Open-Hours	Closed Hours
4/13	5:30	Township Board of Trustees	pdf	pdf	-	na	.pdf	None	0.1	0.9
4/13	7:00	Township Board of Trustees	pdf	pdf	-	na	.pdf	TRUE	1.2	0
4/14	7:00	Parks and Recreation Commission	pdf	pdf	-	.pdf		TRUE	3.2	1.3
4/20	7:00	Zoning Board of Appeals	pdf	pdf	-	.pdf		TRUE	1.3	0
4/20	7:00	Paint Creek Trailways Commission	Meeting	org)	org)	.pdf		None	1.6	0
4/21	7:00	Historic District Commission	pdf	pdf	-			TRUE	2.2	0
4/22	6:00	Safety Paths and Trails Committee	.pdf	none	none	.pdf		TRUE	1.3	0
4/27	7:00	Township Board of Trustees	.pdf	none		.pdf		None	0.1	1.5
4/27	7:00	Township Board of Trustees	.pdf	.pdf		.pdf		TRUE	0.8	0
5/4	7:00	Planning Commission	.pdf	.pdf		.pdf		TRUE	0.9	0
5/6	6:00	Safety Paths and Trails Committee	cancelled							
5/11	5:00	Township Board of Trustees	.pdf	none		.pdf		none	0.1	tbd
5/11	7:00	Township Board of Trustees	.pdf	.pdf				TRUE	1.5	0
5/12	7:00	Parks and Recreation Commission	.pdf	.pdf					1.5	0
5/18	7:00	Zoning Board of Appeals	.pdf	.pdf						
5/19	7:00	Historic District Commission								
5/20	7:00	Library Board								
5/25	7:00	Township Board of Trustees								
5/27	5:00	Older Person's Commission	/file							

News

Fire Department

Timothy Haynes resignation letter (Former Full-time Firefighter / Paramedic)

Timothy Haynes

Dear Chief Danek,

I am submitting this letter of resignation from my position as firefighter/paramedic in Oakland Township. My last day of work for the township will be March 19, 2021.

I have enjoyed working for the Oakland Township Fire Department this past year. I feel like I have become a part of the team and feel like a member of an extended family. I will miss the casual conversations and high-pressure experiences equally. I have come to rely on the members of Oakland Township fire department, both on shift and off.

I wish the department the best in your vision to grow and expand. I hope to continue the relationships that I have been fortunate to have with the team. If you need anything from me before and after my departure, please do not hesitate to call me....

Sincerely, Tim Haynes

Note: Mr. Haynes hiring was authorized to be hired by the Board May 12, 2020.

Roads

RCOC APPLYING FRICTION TREATMENT TO ROADS IN INDEPENDENCE & ORION TWPS TO IMPROVE SAFETY

This is essentially sand glued to the road with epoxy. This was mostly funded by a Federal grant. Read about it at this link:

[Road Commission for Oakland County \(rcocweb.org\)](http://rcocweb.org)

Events Calendars

Parks and Recreation

Get an account and see all upcoming Parks and Recreation events here:

<https://oaklandtownship.recdesk.com/Community/Home>

Township Events

See “View News” on Home page of Township Website for events listed there:

<http://www.oaklandtownship.org/newslist.php>

Public Body Meetings

See all upcoming Public Body Meetings on Township website calendar here:

<http://www.oaklandtownship.org/calendar.php>

To have your event posted here free, send an email stating that you want it posted. Structure the email so I can copy and paste your headline and announcement into word with no additional editing required on my part. Events of general public interest (in my opinion) will be posted.

For previous reports and our “Encyclopedia of Oakland Township” visit our website at

<https://oaklandtownshipsentinel.org/>

Comments, suggestions and respectful (no attacking anyone’s motive or personal attributes) letters to the editor are always welcome. Send them to me at

yagerra@comcast.net

Bob Yager

Editor

Oakland Township Sentinel