

Royalton Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes  
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15 July 2025  
Approved

6:30 p.m., 15 July 2025, Chair Jeff Schlaeger called the Royalton Township working planning commission meeting to order with Supervisors Pete Belland and John Graham, Treasurer Jenessa Saumer, and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Septic Administrator Amy Thompson and members of the public also attended.

Clerk Swanson distributed the drafts of a security camera policy and enacting resolution for the members' review and comment at a later meeting. This draft had been reviewed by Travis Kemen. Clerk Swanson noted that several decisions needed to be made about who would have access to the video produced and how it would be used. Supervisor Graham asked if legal counsel should review this policy, and the commission agreed that counsel would review it when its content is in a more final form.

Clerk Swanson reviewed the status of the kitchen window that had been broken during a rental event. The quote to replace the window is \$646.86, which includes sales tax of \$48.56; the town's insurance deductible is \$1,000. Sarah Damann was present to acknowledge that her daughter was involved. The commission discussed repayment options and thanked Mrs. Damann for attending. Clerk Swanson will arrange for the repair of the window.

Paul and Jamie Beseman were present to explain their variance request for an updated septic system at 8827 Maple Shores Drive (PID 295075000). The dimensions of the property and placement of the current structures preclude an upgraded system from following current setback rules. Septic Administrator Thompson agreed with the owners' and septic designer's assessment. She will work with Clerk Swanson on language for the formal approval of the variance. Commission members had no objections to the variance request. Chair Schlaeger thanked Mr. and Mrs. Beseman for their attendance and cooperation.

Supervisor Belland distributed specifications with maps for ten potential ditching/culvert projects across the township. He will forward them to prospective bidders for review at a future board meeting.

Clerk Swanson noted that complaints had been received about blight issues at 5583 Royal River Road (PID 295098000). Similar concerns had been noted on the 2025 road inspection. The commission recommended that Clerk Swanson draft a letter describing the issues for approval at the next board meeting.

Clerk Swanson reported that the owner of 10047 Bears Ear Road (PID 295036000) had called asking how long he could keep a stack of logs on the right-of-way at the end of the road. Greg Schneider noted that although the logs are on the right-of-way, they do not impede flow of traffic. Commission members expressed approval for an unspecified short period of time. Clerk Swanson will contact the owner.

\_\_\_\_PB      \_\_\_\_JG      \_\_\_\_JMS      \_\_\_\_JS      \_\_\_\_DPS

Treasurer Jenessa Saumer reviewed the increasing difficulties regarding several regular monthly payments because of the arrival of bills and the lateness of the regular monthly board meetings to approve payment. The timing results in late notices, potential late fees, and termination of service. She and Clerk Swanson will produce a list of such regular bills for the board to authorize automatic and/or online payments prior to the board meeting. One of these bills is from Gigfire, provider of the town's Internet. Commission and audience members suggested that the town investigate having ECE as its Internet provider. Clerk Swanson will contact ECE.

Supervisor Belland reported on his discussions with an Apple Road resident regarding the possibility of chloriding the road to minimize dust pollution. He explained the town's policy about paying half the cost if the residents pay the remaining half. The resident will survey the neighbors. Clerk Swanson was asked to send a copy of the policy to the resident.

Supervisor Belland reported on the probable plugging of the culvert under Bayberry Road. The culvert was not plugged, but the fence protecting the culvert was clogged with vegetation and debris. Supervisor Belland removed the obstructions, and the culvert was flowing again.

Audience members inquired about the future of the planning commission. Several recommended that the board continue to function as the commission, noting the effectiveness of the current meeting and the lack of discord.

FYI:

The next regular planning commission meeting will be at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, 29 July 2025.

At 7:33 p.m., Chair Schlaeger adjourned the working meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane P. Swanson, Clerk/Member

Pete Belland, Supervisor Member

John Graham, Supervisor/Member

Jenessa Saumer, Treasurer/Member

Jeff Schlaeger, Chair/Supervisor/Member