

**Tallmadge Charter Township  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Regular Meeting  
August 3, 2021  
7:00 PM**

7:00 – Marv Bennink called the meeting to order

Members Present: Marv Bennink, Mary Gavin, Shirley Bruin, Tip Bronkema

Members Absent: Charlie Gilson

Also Present: Sara Moring-Hilt – Zoning Administrator, applicants, and members from the public

Approval of the agenda – Bennink entertained motion to approve the agenda and it carried unanimously.

Approval of the November minutes – Not present in the ZBA packet. State that they cannot approve them at this meeting without them and will need to do so at the next meeting.

Non-agenda item inquiries:

None

New Business:

Public Hearing – Use Variance Application

West Walker Sportsman Club

Bennink introduced the business item: The West Walker Sportsman Club variance application. Asked if anyone was present in the audience to represent the Club.

David Van Kley, president of the Club, states that they wish to improve the existing 25-yard shooting chamber by replacing the wood with concrete. Clarifies that the range is an existing structure. States that there will be no plumbing or mechanical work. States that the concrete will be safer and better than the existing wood.

Moring-Hilt summarized her review of the variance application, stating that she believes that all of the standards have been met and that approval may be appropriate.

Bronkema inquired regarding the concrete displayed on the plans.

Van Kley described the layout of the 4 walls of the chamber that will be concrete.

Bronkema inquired regarding if the existing berm will be made higher.

WWSC Treasurer stated that the berm will be 20 feet tall.

Van Kley says that dirt from on-site will be added to the existing berms.

Bruin asks if the berm will remain as dirt.

Van Kley said yes; concrete will be on the walls with a “dos plate” on top of it. The east end of the chamber has the berm, with the shooters at the west end. The chamber “roof” goes from 9 feet to 8 feet in height, the water will run down this sloped roof and run toward the dirt berms. States that overall, the footprint of the chambers will actually be smaller than that of the existing structure.

Bennink made a motion to open the meeting for public comment, Bronkema supports, Gavin carries.

Diana Ryan: Asked if there will be a change in noise level.

Van Kley said that although he is not an expert, his guess is that the noise levels will be reduced since the structure is somewhat enclosed.

Ron Zimmerman: By living in Tallmadge Woods, Ron stated that he knew there would be some level of sound coming from the Club, but he would not want the sound to be increased whatsoever. Concerned since concrete tends to echo. Suggested that soundproofing should be done.

Steve Ryan stated that he expects the noise to be lower but if it is not, the Club is prepared to take soundproofing measures.

Bennink addressed the six standards of review for the variance application. Stated that Moring-Hilt agrees that the standards have been met, but we do have the option to place conditions on any approval. Stated that the condition shall be that if the noise level is to increase from the improvements the Club is making, soundproofing will be required.

Bennink entertained motion to approve the variance application.

Bronkema made motion to approve the application with the aforementioned noise conditions, specifically if the noise is to be louder than it currently is.

Bruin seconded the motion.

Bennink asked if the Zoning Board of Appeals were all in favor of approval with noise conditions.

Members agree unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Moring-Hilt