

Productive public hearing on ordinance

Written by George Browning
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A Public Hearing was held by the Washington County Plan Commission on Monday, March 4 to review the proposed zoning ordinance.

The hearing was to give citizens an opportunity to express their views on the recently completed Washington County Zoning Control Ordinance, which is being considered for certification to the Washington County Commissioners.

The proposed Washington County Zoning Ordinance covers all of Washington County, Indiana except those areas that are zoned under the ordinances of the City of Salem, Indiana and the Town of Livonia, Indiana and establishes two districts: Rural and Residential, and establishes zoning regulations for confined feeding operations in Rural

Plan Commission President David Hoar said he was pleased with the meeting even though the mission of the meeting wasn't accomplished.

"I felt like it was a productive meeting with a lot of insight as far as people reading the document and bringing things of clarity that are not currently in the document in draft form that was exposed," he said.

Hoar said the document will now be sent back to the subcommittee to tweak and make corrections that were pointed out in the March 4 meeting.

Once the subcommittee takes a look at the document and makes the recommended changes, it will be brought before the entire plan commission at their regular meeting April 9.

"We will discuss what the subcommittee comes up with for new language," Hoar said. "At that time we will look at starting the process over with a 10-day notification where we post the ordinance again. Then we will have a public hearing. This is not a fast process."

Hoar said the finalized ordinance likely won't be presented to the commissioners for approval any earlier than July.

"I am speaking for the plan commission, but we won't feel comfortable without two public hearings instead of one," he said. "There are things that come up as people read this document and take interest in it."

The plan commission meeting will be in the Salem City Hall council chambers on April 9 at 7 p.m.