

## **Zoning Commission tackles short-term rentals**

By Gary Budzak - December 31, 2024



KILBOURNE — Before the year ended, Brown Township posted minutes of the final Zoning Commission meetings of 2024. Here's a summary.

- On Dec. 5, Chair Keith Holewinski said this is his last meeting due to term limits. In old business, there was further discussion on adding standards for dry hydrants, final development plans, and NAICS codes in the zoning resolution.

The Zoning Commission discussed whether Airbnbs should have its own article in the zoning resolution, including a definition and the differences between them and a bed and breakfast and "granny flats."

Township residents have recently asked whether they can have short-term rentals.

"The question is whether to allow or not, and what to recommend to the Trustees, and if they are allowed, what would be appropriate guardrails," the meeting minutes said. "The members want property owners to be able to use their properties but aim to avoid problems such as wild party barns. It was noted that these might seem like a good idea until your neighbor creates one."

It was noted that short-term rentals would likely also involve the Delaware Public Health District (septic), zoning inspector and Board of Zoning Appeals. There was discussion regarding permitting, limiting the number of Airbnbs a person can have, and making sure the manager was on hand when in use.

Danbury Township in Ottawa County was cited as having provisions for short-term rentals in its zoning resolution.

- BZTC also met on Nov. 7, but there were no details.
- The BZTC will next meet on Jan. 9 in order to have a quorum.

The Brown Township Zoning Commission consists of Chair Keith Holewinski, Vice Chair Kyle Vanderhoff, Ian Capwell, Aaron Heydinger, Jeremy Williams and alternates Stan Bean and Marc Gaskell. Steve Serio is the zoning inspector; Vickie Sheets is the zoning secretary. The Zoning Commission board meets every first Thursday at 7 p.m.

The Board of Zoning Appeals consists of Shane Askins, Vice Chair Donald Dicke, Brad Ebersole, Chris Shamro, Chris Thompson and alternate Linda Sheets. The zoning appeals board meets second Wednesdays at 7 p.m. when there is an appeal hearing.

The trustees are Chair Connie Skinner, Vice Charles Miley and Gary Stegner. Dan Gladman is road superintendent (just over 20 miles of township roads) and Beth Harp is cemetery sexton.

The meetings are held in the Brown Township Hall, 5555 State Route 521, Delaware.

Brown Township includes the populated places of Kilbourne and Leonardsburg. For more information, visit [co.delaware.oh.us/cities/brown-township/](http://co.delaware.oh.us/cities/brown-township/) (website) or Brown Township Delaware Ohio (Facebook).