

Florence Township Trustees
11011 Chapel St., Wakeman, OH 44889
Special Meeting “Agritourism” Minutes
5/16/2018
7:30pm

Fiscal Officer received certification from Zoning Commission they held a public hearing on April 11th and recommend adding a section on Agritourism to the Zoning Resolution Book. Erie Regional Planning has reviewed and supports the addition.

There were some questions from the audience regarding who will enforce the parking? Will this apply to festivals, auctions?

John stated that the Erie County Sherriff would enforce any violations. This will apply to Agritourism. While there doesn't seem to be any significant Agritourim in the township, this was proactive – to have some parking guidelines in the zoning regulation book to ensure public safety.

The following is the proposed addition:

Florence Township, Ohio
Proposed Agritourism Zoning Resolution Additions

Definitions (To Be Added Alphabetically in Article 3.1)

Agritourism - an agriculturally related educational, entertainment, historical, cultural, or recreational activity, including you-pick operations/farm markets, conducted on a farm that allows or invites members of the general public to observe, participate in, or enjoy that activity. Agritourism may include a farm tour, Ag technical tour, garden/nursery tour, heritage/ag museum, lecture or presentation, historical exhibit, school tour, winery tour, guided crop tour, barn dances, festivals and fairs, petting zoo, pumpkin patch, hay ride/corn maze, picnic/play area, camping, fishing, birdwatching, game/wildlife preserve, horseback riding, shooting sports, nature walks, hunting, trail rides and maple syrup production.

Agritourism provider - a person who owns, operates, provides, or sponsors an agritourism activity or an employee of such a person who engages in or provides agritourism activities whether or not for a fee.

Agricultural production - commercial aquaculture, algaculture meaning the farming of algae, apiculture, animal husbandry, or poultry husbandry; the production for a commercial purpose of timber, field crops, tobacco, fruits, vegetables, nursery stock, ornamental shrubs, ornamental trees, flowers, or sod; the growth of timber for a noncommercial purpose if the land on which the timber is grown is contiguous to or part of a parcel of land under common ownership that is otherwise devoted exclusively to agricultural use; or any combination of such husbandry, production, or growth; and includes the processing, drying, storage, and marketing of agricultural products when those activities are conducted in conjunction with such husbandry, production, or growth.

On-Street Parking - on-street parking means any parking located in or on the streets, roads, right-of-ways, shoulders or berms of the Township.

Liability Sign Requirements (To Be Added As “Appendix A” Following Article 23)

All agritourism providers shall post and maintain signs that contain the following warning notice:

WARNING: Under Ohio law, there is no liability for an injury to or death of a participant in an agritourism activity conducted at this agritourism location if that injury or death results from the inherent risks of that agritourism activity. Inherent risks of agritourism activities include, but are not limited to, the risk of injury inherent to land, equipment, and animals as well as the potential for you as a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to your injury or death. You are assuming the risk of participating in this agritourism activity.

The warning notice must use a white background with black lettering that is at least one inch in height. The signs must be placed in a clearly visible location at or near each entrance to the agritourism location or at the site of each agritourism activity.

On-Street Parking Prohibited (To Be Added As “Appendix A” Following Article 23)

Due to the potential for accident or injury and to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public all on-street parking is strictly prohibited related to agritourism. This prohibition applies to any motorized or non-motorized, operable or inoperable vehicles, including but not limited to, trucks, tractor/trailer, passenger vehicle, SUV, boat, recreational vehicle or motorcycle on all Florence Township roads, shoulders, berms and rights-of-ways.

Off-Street Parking (To Be Added As “Appendix A” Following Article 23)

Off-street parking is required for every agritourism provider and activity. While every field available for said parking has its own physical challenges Florence Township suggests one acre per 80-100 cars, as shown below.

EXAMPLE

Many fields used for parking are not flat, not perfectly square and do not accommodate lined parking spaces. Accounting for these and other imperfections in farm fields that are often used for customer parking, many on-farm marketers often estimate that they can park between 80 and 100 automobiles |

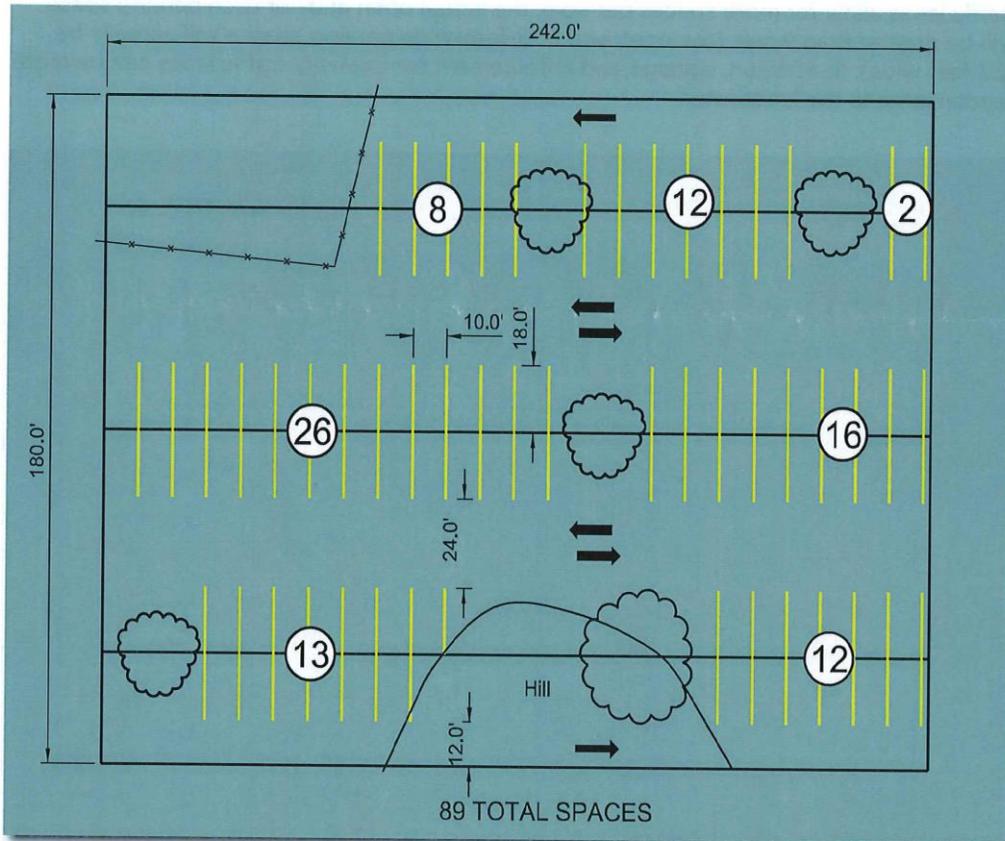


Figure 3. Example design for 89 parking spaces per acre with 10' by 18' spaces showing various farm-field obstacles.

Ingress/Egress (To Be Added As “Appendix A” Following Article 23)

The agritourism operator shall provide ingress and egress via access points on a public road as approved by the Township Zoning Inspector, County Engineer or Ohio Department of Transportation, depending on the jurisdiction of the road being accessed. Such ingress and egress shall be designed to accommodate emergency vehicle access to the satisfaction of the fire department. Point of ingress and egress to the agritourism activity shall be located at least one-hundred (100) feet from the right-of-way of the intersection of any two (2) streets.

RESOLUTION 10-2018

Topic	Adopt Agritourism language to the Zoning Resolution Book
MOTION TO	Adopt “Agritourism” language addition and have it added to the Zoning Resolution Book.
MOTION MADE BY	Bill Turnbull
MOTION SECONDED BY	Orville Sayler
VOTING RESULTS	YES: 3 NO:

Adjournment	
MOTION TO	Adjourn special meeting and enter into the regularly scheduled meeting.
MOTION MADE BY	Bill Turnbull
MOTION SECONDED BY	Orville Sayler
VOTING RESULTS	YES: 3 NO: