

Cedar Creek Township is a Zoned Community. The last Zoning Ordinance was revised in in 1993 – 28 years ago by Supervisor Jim Muston, Treasurer Sharon Ackerman, Clerk Lorraine Hawkins, and Trustees Tony Crosser and William Carpenter. Revising an Ordinance is a Normal procedure as townships grow and change. Zoning regulations are in place for the benefit of **ALL** citizens, not just for those who want things done or not done to suit their particular needs, wants or desires.

I regret that someone felt it was acceptable to create an inflammatory piece of misinformation and further advisable to circulate that piece online and throughout the Township without first gathering the correct facts. Their piece was designed to incite anger by leaving out and reworking important contextual information necessary to understanding the proposed Noise Ordinance. What their piece fails to point out is that much of the ordinance remains the same as the revised 1993 document.

Over the past year, Cedar Creek Township has received a growing number of noise-related complaints. In fact, last October, we sat in this very room and listened as people complained about it and asked what we were going to do about it. To that end, the Board voted to form a Task Force to study the issue. We placed a sunset date of June 7th so that the Task Force could make a recommendation to the Board no later than the June Board meeting. The Task Force members were very well represented by Captain Shane Brown of the Muskegon

County Sheriff's Department; Jackie Miskovich, DNR Law Enforcement Officer; Jennifer Barnes, Attorney and Chair of the Cedar Creek Planning Commission; Peggy Foster, Cedar Creek Trustee; Lorraine Grabinski, Cedar Creek Zoning Administrator; a Cedar Creek citizen; and me, Linda Aerts, Supervisor.

Simply stated, this is a Noise Ordinance – it addresses **All Noise**, such as late-night snowmobiling, partying late at night not the kind where you are enjoying yourself in your back yard with your neighbors, but the raucous kind that prevents others from being able to sleep, excessive daytime noises, and yes late-night shooting. With that said, no one at Cedar Creek Township is attempting to take your guns away.

Oddly enough, this flier asks for civil discourse in an attempt to work things out. Many of those attempts have been made. This flier is a perfect example of what happens when people distort facts rather than attempt to work things out with **truth**. It has also come to my attention that a person of perceived power made a call to the home of a complainant implying that it would be better if they withdraw their complaint. Let me state this clearly, Cedar Creek is a complaint-based Township, and everyone has a right to file a complaint should they feel they have been aggrieved. Is this how we operate in Cedar Creek Township? Has distorting the truth become our new normal? I certainly hope not. If you kept your yard clean and took pride in it, the Township Zoning Administrator would be the first person you would call if your neighbor's yard were full of trash

and junk cars. You would also want a Zoning Ordinance that is strong enough so that the police could do something to support you if your neighbor decided to play loud music from Midnight to 5:00 am. Contrary to popular opinion, everyone does not play well in the sandbox as an adult.

About a year ago we conducted a very informal survey on the reasons why people chose to live in Cedar Creek Township. They often cited sporting activities – we have all sorts of different options here such as hunting and fishing and hiking, but they also named peace and quiet as important reasons. We need to find a balance that allows us to live within both of these worlds, just as many of the people who enjoy peace also enjoy hunting and target shooting. They also need and appreciate sleep and safety.

Please know that no one on this Board is anti-gun, I have hunted, and I am married to a hunter as is Heather. Bob is a Hunter and his wife shoots, Stephanie is going to take shooting lessons, and we all know that Peggy and Gary Foster own a gun shop.

I have talked to many people since this Misinformation Piece has gone viral, including Marcus Keech in Representative VanWoerkom's office. Initially I thought, oh no, but then I remembered that I, too, have spoken with my legislators when I was upset about something. So, I applaud you for your convictions and we appreciate and consider your input - this is how good government works.

Here are some of your concerns, the State of Michigan Fireworks Law supersedes Cedar Creek **firecracker** restrictions. This piece is so blown out of proportion by misinformation that I find it very difficult not to be angry. We want you to love and enjoy Cedar Creek. The Reasonable Person Standard would allow a farmer to put down an injured animal after the stated hours. While I will defer to the experts here, it is my understanding that we placed this DNR regulation regarding night-time shooting in our Ordinance due to visual safety concerns. Cedar Creek Township does not regulate the United States Forest Service, which operates the Motorsports Trail and happens to lie close to a vocal dissenter's home. We have no control over how long their hours of operation are, which are longer than shooting hours.

We also took some things out that were pure legalese and strengthened our Purpose Statement to ensure it meets the needs of all residents.

Now for the Criminal Penalties – that has been in there since at least 1993. If you listened to the last Task Force meeting, you would have heard the exchange that Captain Brown and I had about lowering the penalties in another revision of this document, which was to be started once this was on the books. Summer is coming and the issues that this Ordinance addresses is a concern. We discussed the option of going before a Magistrate and reducing the penalty structure; it is good for our citizens and good for the Township.

With all of this said, in no way do I agree with how this information was spread throughout the Township. After having talked with what seems like 1,000,000 people, when there are only about 3,320 people living in Cedar Creek, I have found several areas that I feel need tightening up in the Noise Ordinance. My recommendation will be to Table this until all issues have been addressed before the Task Force.