

Planning Commission Meeting
Jan 10th, 2015 12:00 pm Community Center

Commission Members:
Matt Lazorik, Susan Keachie, Larry Chernoff, Joni Vaughan and Max Taubert.

Members of the Public present: Judy Kerr

The Minutes for the September meeting were read. Larry made a motion to approve, Joni 2nd and all were in favor.

The Minutes for the December meeting were read. Susan noted that the reference to the Star North sign permit request coming from County was in error. The permit was submitted directly to the Town from Star North. Susan will make the correction and resubmit the Minutes from 12/4/2014. Joni made a motion to approve the Minutes as corrected, Larry 2nd and all were in favor.

No Updates or Correspondence

Comprehensive Plan 5 Year Review

Discussion on how to proceed on the 5 year review:

Larry believed that changes in the Wisconsin Statue governing Comprehensive Plans may have changed since our Plan was adopted changing the 5 year review requirement to 10 years. Matt will research the changes in the Statute but as our Plan outlines the 5 year review it was decided to continue with that objective although not in as much depth as might be required for the 10 year review.

Judy pointed out a site: www.sewrpc.org that has a lot of information on the current status of the WI. Comprehensive Plan guidelines.

Susan suggested that the commissioners may want to split up the elements requiring review and do them individually outside of the meetings. Items included in the element that might need updating would be outlined by the individual and presented to the group for discussion. After discussion it was also decided that each individual would identify Action Items that needed attention and/or present new Action Items for consideration. Joni presented the 2010-2014 list of Action Items identified in the Plan with her notes on what had been completed or what the status was of the Item. Susan will email the lists to all commissioners for review. The goal would be to come up with an updated version of the list for 2015-2019.

Each Commissioner will review the 9 Elements as follows:

Susan_ Housing
Larry_ Utilities and Land Use
Max_ Issues and Opportunities and Economic Development
Joni_ Intergovernmental Relations and Agriculture
Matt_ Implementation and Transportation

The objective of the Review will be to Review Action Items and flag potential issues for creation of Action Items.

At the next meeting we will report on progress of the review. Also as a result of this preliminary review we may be able to define the scope of the 10 year review with some guidelines.

The Short Term Rental Criteria will also be reviewed at the next meeting as identified in a previous meeting.

Star North Sign Permit Request

Discussion followed of the events surrounding the application of Star North for a sign permit including LED lighting. Susan suggested that each commissioner do a thorough review of both the County Sign Ordinance and the Town of Bell ordinance to see where duplication existed and to present and discuss any issues in the Town of Bell Ordinance that are not addressed in the County Ordinance. Creating a set of criteria similar to the Short Term Rental Criteria for approval of signs within the Village Overlay District was suggested. If there are items in the current Bell Ordinance that are not identified in the County Ordinance but appear to be important for consideration for Town approval they could be added to this list of criteria instead of being included in an Ordinance which is in effect very difficult to enforce.

Since the language of “historical and rural” as noted in the Comprehensive Plan is difficult to define Joni suggested a new survey of the citizens that might allow them to express what that might mean to them. Other definitions could be gathered. There may be other issues that are current that could be included in the survey. Joni spoke to Tim Kane of the Wisconsin Extension Office in Washburn. He can help with the survey creating meaningful questions and analyzing date when surveys are returned. He noted that our percentage of response to the initial Comprehensive Plan survey was exceptional indicating an engaged population.

Consensus was that we should review the questions in the 2006 survey and consider new survey questions at the next meeting.

Joni made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Larry 2nd, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be Thursday Feb. 5th at 7:00 pm at the Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Keachie
Secretary