

Planning Commission Meeting November 5th, 2009 7:00 pm

Attendees: Ray Kiewit, Susan Keachie, Fred Schlichting, Joni Brooks and Max Taubert

Members of the Public present were:

Mike Wright and Dennis and Barb Edwards

Updates:

The DNR will be purchasing land for Lost Creek Bog.

Next Tuesday, 11/10: Bill Sloan, Al Reedy and Ray will attend the Bayfield County meeting and encourage the County to adopt the Comprehensive Plan.

Ray met with Mike Darrow after last months County Plan meeting about the Brochure Plan for Bell Town and feels like it will be fine.

Ray shared information on a failing culvert under Superior Ave. on the Lake side. There are several issues regarding either removal or repair of the culvert. He thought Commission members may want to know about it.

The Minutes from last months meeting were read. Ray made a motion to approve and Max 2nd – the motion passed.

Mike Wright was in attendance to request and exception to the hunting ordinance that is in place on Romans Point. The area in question is zoned Agriculture/Forest and is currently designated as a NO HUNTING area by an Ordinance adopted by the Town in 2008. A previous version of the ordinance had been in place for many years. Mike has permission from the owner to hunt on land (approx. 165 acres) in the interior of the point. He feels that from a permanent tree stand located centrally in the parcel that there would be no safety issues regarding neighboring properties, that it would be in the interest of the forest there to cull some of the deer population and it would be near his home on Thunder Bay Rd. He hunts deer for food and not just for sport.

Ray had discussed the issue with Karl Kastrosky from the County Zoning office. Karl suggested we consider one of three options;

1. Do nothing
2. Give a verbal OK
3. Amend the Ordinance

After a lengthy discussion Ray made a motion to recommend approval of the request for an exception pending written permission from the landowner that would include Mike Wright's name and a legal description of the property and under the following conditions:

1. The exception be granted for Mike Wright only
2. The exception be limited to a period of 5 years
3. It would be non-transferrable
4. It would be for rifle season only
5. A suggestion to the property owner that it be posted with No Trespassing signs was made.

The Motion came to a vote. The Plan Commission was split 2 for the motion, 2 against the motion and one abstention.

After more discussion it was suggested that if the Board permits the exception it may want to notify adjacent landowners that the exception has been granted.

The Commission reviewed an application from Siskiwit Bay Lodge to Bayfield County to change the permitting of the Lodge from “Conference/Business Center” to a Bed and Breakfast establishment.

Fred made a motion to accept the application, Susan 2nd and approval was unanimous.

A review was made of the notes from the Plan Hearing on Oct. 24th to see if there were any changes to the Plan that we might want to make as a result of the hearing. Commission members did not see any changes necessary. The question of rezoning requests was discussed and all agreed that no rezoning would be pursued without written permission from the affected landowners.

There was some discussion of the Architectural Review process referred to in a letter to the hearing from Chris Hudachek. The Plan Commission feels that the survey indicates that most residents are in favor of such protections. Of 340 Comprehensive Plan Survey respondents, 201 “Strongly Agreed” and another 114 “Agreed” (a total of 315) that “maintaining the Town’s rural character was an important issue. Another large majority indicated in the Land Use section of the Survey that it was important that the “Town of Bell establish GUIDELINES in *commercial* areas for the following:

- Signs
- Exterior lighting
- Noise
- Building heights
- Building mass per square foot of land
- Plan review for suitability to location and use
- Controlling junk
- Regulating building
- Communication towers

Please refer to the compilation of Survey Results for the exact numbers in favor on each of the above items.

Regarding copies of the Plan for Plan Commission members: it was decided that each member should have a complete copy for reference during their tenure and that that copy would be passed on to their successor at the end of their term.

A brief discussion of priorities for the Commission resulted in identifying the Short Term Rental Permit and the Business Park as being critical to start work on. When the Plan is approved we will discuss prioritizing other Action Items identified in the Plan

Max will design a postcard that includes blanks for notification of affected parties for future permit application reviews. The card will read something like:

The Town of Bell Planning Commission will meet on _____(date) at _____(time)
at the Bell Town Community Center to consider the permit request made by
_____for_____

The next meeting will focus on the Permit Review Process and try to set other priorities for the Commission.

Fred made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Max 2nd and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday December 3rd at 7 pm at the Community Center.