

PLAN COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF GRANT  
April 19, 2017

**PRESENT:** Jim Wendels (Chairperson) Tom Reitter, Sharon Schwab, Nathan Wolosek, (Committee Members), Kathleen Lee (Secretary), Marty Rutz (Zoning Administrator) arrived @ 8pm

**EXCUSED:** Ron Becker

**GUEST:** Kristen Johnson

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Jim Wendels.

**STATE OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

It was stated that the agenda was posted at two posting stations (the Grant Town Hall and the Grant Transfer Station) and on the Town's website.

**MINUTES**

It was moved by S. Schwab and seconded by N. Wolosek to approve the March 29, 2017 Plan Commission Meeting Minutes. The motion passed with unanimous ayes.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Review of the plan started with Chapter 1 (pages 17 & 18). An item D has been added to Section 1.2 Past Planning in Grant. The new item includes a discussion of the Other Town Zoning Ordinance Amendments with a focus on the addition of the Farmland Preservation Overlay Zoning District in 2016. The new paragraph was approved.

Chapter 5 was reviewed. Section 5.2 Agricultural Resources edits included two new paragraphs that summarized a history of agriculture in the area. It was recommended to cite the source of that information (DNR Buena Vista Wildlife Area Historical kiosk.) In the second of the 2 paragraphs, blue grass will be switched to one word (bluegrass). The last sentence in the paragraph will have minor edits. The word "during" will be changed to "since" and the word "much" will be changed to "some."

The accuracy of Map 5.1 "Productive Agricultural Soils & Agricultural Practices" from April 2016 was questioned. There should be an additional 120 acres of land in the southwest corner of the Town that is being irrigated. K. Johnson will ask Rod Sutter to review the map.

Previous edits to Section 5.1 B. Farming Systems, Demographics, and Land Tenure were reviewed. The edits are based on April 2016 data. No additional edits were recommended.

Map 5.2 Drainage Districts was reviewed. The edited version does not have the Portage County Drainage District shaded. The shading will be reinserted. There were questions about other aspects of the map including whether a portion of the Drainage District is missing and are some ditches included in the District that don't belong there. N. Wolosek is not aware of any changes in the drainage district since the map found in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan was made. Currently the old map and the new map are different. K. Johnson will contact Paul Cieslewicz, Chairman of the Portage County Drainage District to clarify the district borders.

The topography map is now Map 5.3.

In paragraph 3 of Section 5.2 E. 1. Portage County Drainage District, the third sentence will be changed to “In recent years the district has recognized a need for extensive dredging of the ditches which requires a permit from the DNR.”

The current status (active versus inactive) of Adams County Drainage Board, Leola Drainage District is not known. K. Johnson will contact the State Drainage Board regarding the status. If the district does not exist, we would need to change Map 5.2. Paul Cieslewicz may know the answer to this question.

There has been no serious flooding along County U since 2001. The first full paragraph on the top of page 45 will be removed.

Additional program information has been added to Section 5.2 F. Agricultural Programs.

Section 5.3 Agricultural Issues and Conclusions – the words “of Grant” will be removed from the fourth bullet. The second sentence will be removed from the fifth bullet as it mentions flooding along County U.

In Section 5.4 C. Polices – item 9, Farm Service Agency will be abbreviated. UW-Extension will be shortened. In item 10, the abbreviation for Implements of Husbandry will be changed to IoH.

Map numbering has been updated; including Map 5.4 was changed to 5.5.

On the third from bottom line on page 51, there is a “the the” that needs to be corrected.

On page 60, the saturation index list will be changed to use the word “to” in place of a dash. If possible a word descriptor will be added to each number range.

On page 60, E. Wildlife Habitat and Forested Areas – paragraph 3, the word “and” in the first sentence will be changed to “which”.

On the top of page 61, in the third sentence, the words “Non game” will be changed to “Nongame.”

K. Johnson will check the DNR website regarding threatened and endangered species to verify that the July 2015 list is current. She will look specifically for whooping crane and Franklin’s ground squirrel.

In Section 5.8 Cultural Resources A., the last paragraph discusses the Town’s history book. A mention of the 2016 update will be mentioned.

No other changes were recommended for Chapter 5.

#### **CITIZEN INPUT**

Jay Paul complained about the brightness of the lights on the Midwest Communications tower located at County Roads F and W. Jim Wendels did verify the brightness. The lights are shining white at night. This tower was erected prior to the Town’s Tower Ordinance which specific two color lights.

M. Rutz will contact the property owner.

M. Rutz has expressed a concern regarding fences moved when ditches are dredged. He is wondering if a displaced fence will be returned to its original place. He was given a copy of “District Corridor Along Portage County Drainage District Ditches” and it was recommended that he coordinate with the District regarding his fence.

N. Wolosek asked if the Okray-Meronek issue had been resolved. The issue also impacts a Town right-of-way. At this time, it has not been resolved. Using a neutral surveyor from the County is viewed as the best way to address the issue.

N. Wolosek asked about comments from citizens along 84<sup>th</sup> Street. No comments from citizens near 84<sup>th</sup> Street have been received after trees were removed from the Town's right-of-way. The Town will need to maintain the area now that there is a history of a complaint.

### **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

The 2016 Zoning Administrator Report was distributed. There was a total of \$7860 collected in zoning permits including eight new residences. Additionally, there was \$260 in UAP fees, \$125 in driveway permits, and \$80 for CSM.

Building permits/fees issued for March 2017 totaled \$70 for a UAP and an accessory building.

A detailed time sheet for April 1 – 19 was distributed. There was a total of 18 hours and 40 minutes of work for the 19 days.

### **TOWN BOARD REPORT**

At the Annual Meeting, a Plan Commission Report was given by J. Wendels. A copy of the report was distributed.

At the April Monthly Board Meeting, it was decided to reopen Tower Road to ATV traffic. There have been no complaints from citizens on Tower Road, although some complaints have been received from citizens on Evergreen Ave and other roads per Jon Scharbarth, WDNR Conservation Warden. There were no citations issued. No discussion took place regarding opening additional roads.

The 2017 IoH letters need to be sent. K. Lee and S. Schwab will meet to do this.

Concerns have been raised regarding the impact of the Town of Saratoga's restrictions on manure spreading. It was questioned if that meant the Town of Grant would be recipients of the Wysocki CAFO's manure. It was stated that manure can only be applied based on the nutrient management plan. We should therefore not receive excess manure.

The ambulance lawsuit is now in appellate court. The Town filled our final response last week. The results will be a published case as it is new case law. The Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) is seeking bi-partisan legislation on the issue. The Town of Belmont will be going with a private provider (Gold Cross) this year.

On May 22, the WTA – Portage Co. Unit meeting will be held at the Grant Town Hall at 6:30 pm.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by N. Wolosek and seconded by J. Wendels to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with unanimous ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathleen D. Lee*

Plan Commission Secretary