

PLAN COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF GRANT
April 6, 2016

PRESENT: Jim Wendels (Chairman), Nathan Wolosek, Ron Becker, Sharon Schwab, Lori Ruess (Committee Members), Marty Rutz (Zoning Administrator), Kathy Lee (Secretary)

CITIZENS:

Nekoosa: Sandra Sweeney (on behalf of St. John Lutheran Church/ Kellner)

Town of Grant: Wayne Brody, Dave Hanneman, Bill Hilgendorf, Kari Hilgendorf, Frank Johnson, Mary Kiedrowski, Thomas Reitter, Ed Schroer, Sandra Wood

Town of Saratoga: Doug Schneider, June Schneider

Wisconsin Rapids: Victor L Bertotto, Chuck Hanson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Jim Wendels, Chairman.

STATE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CHIMES AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sandra Sweeney, a member of St. John Lutheran Church, is interested in installing chimes at the church. She is aware that there is not a noise ordinance in the Town of Grant. She would like approval to proceed with her plan. She has talked to an individual at First Congregational Church in Wisconsin Rapids. They have a similar chime system. They play a short hymn at 9 am, noon, 3 pm and 6 pm. They do not chime the hour. The chime is set at 70, but whether the measurement was in decibels was not certain. She does not plan to have the chimes set higher than 70. She has not spoken with any of the neighbors of the church. The T. Grant has no jurisdiction in this situation.

Kari Hilgendorf commented that the chimes in Wisconsin Rapids are nice to hear when walking in the area. Ron Becker commented the church is on a busy county road and homes in the area are exposed to traffic noise. Chime noise in the area should be less disruptive than the traffic noise. The church is not in the middle of a quiet residential neighborhood. Sharon Schwab asked if the chimes could be reprogrammed if citizens objected to chiming four times per day. S. Sweeney said it could be reprogrammed, but she would not want to decrease the frequency to only once per day.

A date for installation is not known. S. Sweeney was waiting to learn if the chimes would be allowed before proceeding. The speakers will be placed on the top of the bell tower and would likely face in 4 directions.

S. Sweeney plans to proceed with the chimes.

ATV ORDINANCE

- Jim Wendels announced that Draft 3 of the ATV ordinance was available for review. This draft is likely what the Plan Commission will present to Town Board for consideration. The draft is based on state regulations and input from citizens, DNR officials, and the Sheriff's Department. It is an attempt to start small by providing a connection from the T. Saratoga to the T. Plover. Phase 1 could last up to one year, if things go well the ordinance could be amended to include Phase 2. Phase 2 would be dependent on Portage County opening county roads to ATV travel. Phase 1 includes approximately 10 miles of roads. Roads under other Town's jurisdiction would add to the length of the route.

- Strong opposition was voiced to the “starting small” approach and only opening a route through the Town, but not to local business. A route on 90th Street from Evergreen Ave. to County WW is desired. It was thought that Portage County will not open county roads until the T. of Grant has a route that connects to a county road.
- R. Becker stated that we have heard there is a lot of resistance at the County level. If we are able to show that Phase 1 has worked, we may be able to lower the opposition and open routes into Kellner.
- Opening 90th Street would allow people living on that road to access the Tower Road route.
- The business owners in Kellner are upset because we are bypassing them.
- S. Schwab stated we are trying to develop a mechanism to get to the Towns that currently have routes.
- S. Schwab stated the Commission has heard that if an ordinance is passed, the rules and regulations will be followed. It is possible that more monitoring will take place by ATV club members and this could help enforce the rules. The Town currently does not have a route, but people are riding on the roads. This creates questions as to rules being followed if an ordinance is approved.
- R. Becker commented the draft ordinance is something that can be moved forward. We then have the opportunity to demonstrate that it does work and we can then move forward with additional routes. He has observed that on 95th Street, the noise from ATV traffic is quieter than motorcycles, trucks, and nearby target practice.
- Someone will need to assume the cost of the signs designating the route and the installation of the signs. Other towns have made the actual purchase so the appearance of the sign is what the Town desires. Signs will need to be in accordance with s. NR 64.12 and NR 64.12(7)c.
- Wayne Brody (Board of Directors for Saratoga ATV club): The Saratoga ATV club would like to have a big club that includes Saratoga, Grant, and Plover, but they are unable to get anything done until the T. of Grant has a route. He would like to see Phase 2 implemented.
- Dave Hanneman has a \$1000 check for the Town and is awaiting the approval of the ordinance.
- Marty Rutz will call Diggers Hotline and mark the sign location with a stake. The club would be responsible for digging the holes, inserting posts and placing the signs. An offer was made to show Commission members how other towns have placed their signs.
- Access to Tower Road from the T. of Saratoga is needed. Currently Tower Road from 64th Street to 80th Street (County U) is not open in Saratoga.
- M. Kiedrowski believes the ATV clubs should be happy with Phase 1. She added many citizens on 90th are not interested in that road becoming a route.
- S. Schwab stated a public hearing is not required for the ordinance, but because it is controversial the Town would have a hearing. There are some contingencies including Saratoga opening the portion of Tower Road that connects to the T. of Grant and the T. of Buena Vista opening the 1 ½ miles on Town Line Road. We would like to have a club that we could count on and could serve as a contact.
- Nathan Wolosek recommended moving forward with our Phase 1. That may motivate the other townships to come aboard. S. Schwab would like to see the route go up Town Line and not jog around areas not opened by other townships. R. Becker stated there is little traffic and no homes on the stretch of Town Line that is under the jurisdiction of the T. of Buena Vista.
- M. Keidrowski stated she has heard objections from the T. Buena Vista because of damage to the roads. There is the alternative of going to 130th Street. S. Schwab responded that she prefers the straight route. It would be easier to mark and to explain.
- When planning sign locations, the need for mowing should be taken into consideration. Marty Rutz will mark sign locations.
- Bill Hilgendorf asked what type of opposition has been presented prior to tonight. J. Wendels responded there was concern about noise, trespassing, amount of traffic, and disruption of desired quiet. There were objections to Lake Road because of the amount of traffic on the road. Feedback regarding 90th has not been received by J. Wendels. He explained that a resident access provision is not allowed.

- W. Brody stated there are 7 to 9 people with machines on 90th Street between Evergreen Ave. and Mill Road. It would be nice if they were able to go down 90th to WW to the Wild Horse.
- Ed Schroer lives on 90th Street and he has not heard anything against ATVs from his neighbors. He likes the time limit included in the ordinance. He has more concerns about motorcycles on County W and cars and semi-trucks on 90th, then concerns about ATVs. Snowmobilers create noise during all hours of the night. He likes the idea of moving forward with Phase 1.
- W. Brody would like to see access to Wild Horse. He would like routes that would benefit the people living in the Town. The ATV club has plans to clean up roads in the T. of Saratoga. Something similar could be done in the T. of Grant if the ATVs had access to the roads.
- When a Phase 1 Public Hearing takes place, discussion of opening other roads could be included. This would be roads such as 87th, 90th, and Griffith. Everyone living on a proposed route should be notified of the hearing. Having a hearing that included discussion of Phase 2 would provide information that could be shared with Portage County if they inquired. Discussing Phase 2 would minimize the number of times the Town would need to hold a public hearing on the issue.
- J. Wendels reviewed the restrictions listed in the proposed ordinance. He recommends that the ordinance go to Town Board. If future routes were to be added, such as Phase 2; citizens requesting the additional routes could go directly to the Town Board and request an amendment to the ordinance. It would not be necessary to come back to the Plan Commission.
- The Chairman for the ATV club is on the agenda of the Saratoga Town Board meeting to discuss opening Tower Road between 64th Street and County U.
- Sandy Wood expressed concern regarding the ATVs being allowed to run until 1 hour after sunset. J. Wendels responded reducing the time by ½ hour does not provide additional safety. The most dangerous time is the ½ prior to dark. Chuck Hansen commented that Juneau County has a 10:00 pm end time. That way all towns in the county have a uniform end time. They also have the same 35 mph speed limit throughout the county. The uniform approach makes it easier for the County Officers.
- A suggestion was made that 87th Street could be avoided if Evergreen Ave. was opened from County U to 90th Street during Phase 2. A 10 mph speed limit could be posted on Evergreen.
- M. Keidrowski supports the idea of not allowing riding later than one hour after sunset. The ability to enforce that restriction and others was discussed. Members of the ATV club stated they would be able to get the license plate number of offenders. J. Wendels reminded those in attendance that the Sheriff's Office would provide additional patrols.
- It is difficult to project the amount of income that would be generated for local businesses. It is common to spend 20-30 dollars per stop. This would likely occur weekly in the summer.
- **Ron Becker motioned that the Plan Commission forward the draft ordinance as written to the Town Board for consideration. N. Wolosek seconded the motion. Unanimous ayes. Motion carried.**
- **Jim Wendels motioned that the Plan Commission recommend to Town Board that when they entertain the ordinance to also consider Evergreen Ave. and 90th Street as a Phase 2 approach to be considered at some point in the future. R. Becker seconded the motion.**
 - **Nathan Wolosek moved to amend the motion to include 87th Street as an option for in the motion. R. Becker seconded the amendment. Unanimous ayes. The amendment passed.**
- **The amended motion reads: Recommend to the Town Board to also consider Evergreen Ave and 90th Street as a Phase 2 approach to be considered at some point in the future and to include 87th Street as an option in that discussion.**
 - Discussion points included:
 - Once we have an ordinance routes can be added or deleted at any time. It does make sense to discuss possible future routes because we are going to Public Hearing.

- The T. of Plover opened all their roads at their last meeting, but not all of them will be posted. Opening all of them will save time and money. Riding will only be allowed on posted roads. Opening all of them is something the T. of Grant could consider.
- Citizens should be aware that there is interests in making ATV routes grow. Possible routes where there is a high level of interest should be discussed.
- Maybe after 6 months of Phase 1, it would be a good time to could consider a phase 2.
- If we have a Phase 2 on the table, it may help Portage County move on opening County Roads.
- At the last meeting Dave Tosch said he would be happy to allow people to trailer to his property.
- Other routes not previously mentioned are Griffith Ave. and Juniper Lane. Specifying those potential routes would clarify who should receive notification of the Public Hearing.
- **N. Wolosek motioned to amend the motion to include 90th to 50 yards north of WW, Griffith Ave. west to County U and Juniper Lane. It was seconded by R. Becker.**
 - Discussion regarding the amendment:
 - Conduct a Phase 1 hearing, followed by a Phase 2 hearing. Phase 2 will not require any action.
 - Phase 1 should operate at least 6 months. The soonest Phase 2 should be considered is after 6 months of experience with Phase 1.
 - The \$1000 is only available if 90th Street is opened.
 - **Unanimous ayes. The amendment passed.**
- **New motion will read: Recommend to Town Board to consider a Phase 2 option that would include Evergreen Ave., 90th Street to 50 yards north of County WW, 87th Street, Griffith Ave west of 90th Street, and Juniper Lane. Unanimous ayes. The motion passed.**
- A hearing date, separate from the Monthly Board Meeting and the Annual Meeting, will be determined with input from the Town Board. A hearing would likely be scheduled during the week of April 24th or the week of May 1st. All of the landowners along the routes need to be determined and invited. The public hearing will have two sections. The first to look at the merits of the ordinance including the Phase 1 route. The second part of the hearing would be discussion of Phase 2 routes.
- The ATV club was asked to keep us updated on the additional section of Tower Road being opened. They were encouraged to talk to the T. of Buena Vista regarding opening Town Line Road. There could be fewer problems with ATVs in Buena Vista if there was a way for riders to get through the Town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Nathan Wolosek and seconded by Lori Ruess to approve the March 29, 2016 minutes. The motion passed with unanimous ayes.

CITIZEN INPUT

Tom Reitter has been asked to consider joining the Plan Commission to complete the remainder of Lori Ruess's term. He attended the meeting to learn more about the activities of the Commission. He is willing to be part of the group. Tonight will be Lori's last meeting. She expressed her pleasure in working with the group. She forwarded her materials to T. Reitter. She was encouraged to share information of interest from Wood County to the Commission. S. Schwab will make the recommendation of appointing T. Reitter to the Plan Commission at the April 13 Board Meeting. There is one year remaining in the term.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

On March 18 documents from the Farmland Preservation Ad Hoc Committee were forwarded to the Plan Commission members via email. The most recent meeting of the County Ad Hoc Committee was scheduled for March 21. We are still progressing with an overlay district. The County needs to complete their plan. Our district will need to be approved by the County.

CHICKENS

Sharon has sent a letter to Mr. Peterson regarding trespassing chickens. She noted the need for premises registration. Copies were sent to the Humane Society and the Portage County Sheriff. She will send a copy of the letter to the Commission members.

TOWN BOARD REPORT – Sharon Schwab shared an article on ATV trails in the state of Wisconsin.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – There were no permits in February and one accessory building in March for a total of \$50. Someone from AT&T has contacted M. Rutz regarding doing a co-location and swapping antennas on the Mann site and on the Lake Road & 130th Street site. It would be a Class 2 location. They would like to remove an antenna and replace it with an upgraded one. The tower would need to be engineered structurally for the switch. It may take several months to hear back from AT&T. They would need to pay the fee (\$500 for each site).

No one has heard from Matt Flemming from Portage County regarding the emergency management communications tower.

He talked to Dave Tosch (property owner) regarding turkeys. They need to stay on the Tosch property. The premises registration has not been completed. Jake Slusser (tenant) has 13 hens and wanted to get 20 to 30 more chicks, but was told that number would exceed the allowed amount and that he cannot have roosters. He is not raising any pigs. D. Tosch was giving J. Slusser until end of March to do something about the vehicles on the property. The number of vehicles may propel us into developing a junk car/unlicensed vehicle ordinance for residential areas. The topic could be brought up at the Annual Meeting. There is also a concern about cars on a property near cemetery. That individual has expressed interest in doing a lot split.

A drone ordinance is a possibility. N. Wolosek has hired a service that uses drones for crop scouting. They look for nutrition deficiency and insect infestations. There is a heat one that is used to determine the need for irrigation. There are useful uses of the drone.

ADJOURNMENT

Ron Becker moved to adjourn the meeting and Lori Ruess. The motion passed with unanimous ayes at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Lee, Plan Commission Secretary