

**TOWN OF GRANT
PLAN COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2015**

Present: Jim Wendels (Chairman), Lori Ruess (Acting Secretary), Sharon Schwab, Ron Becker, Nathan Wolosek (Committee Members). Marty Rutz (Zoning Administrator) was unable to attend.

Citizens Present: Ed Bodette, Bob & Marie Krueger, Paul T. George, Gordon Panzer, Chuck Hanson, Dave Kester, Frank & Lois Johnson, Jr., Victor Bertotto

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Jim Wendels.

STATE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

It was stated that the Public Notice was posted at all three posting stations within the time parameters required.

Jim Wendels, Chair requested approval from the Plan Commission to move to agenda #4.

SARATOGA ATV/UTV CLUB REQUEST FOR ROUTES IN TOWN OF GRANT

Victor Bertotto, President of the Saratoga ATV/UTV Club introduced himself and presented the WATUA Club Mission Statement. He stated members of the Club are present to ask the Town of Grant to consider opening some of their roads for ATV/UTV routes which would connect to trails in surrounding townships. Opening routes in the Town could potentially increase business for local businesses. He presented a list of ATV/UTV routes the Club would like the Town to consider opening and reported the following:

- The local ATV/UTV Club has 30 plus members.
- The State of Wisconsin has 300,000 registered ATVs/UTVs; 92,000 in the Southwest region.
- Posted speed limit is 35 mph; slower in residential areas.
- Signs can be posted for handicap and/or blind person areas.
- Speed limits are enforced by sheriff (roads) and DNR wardens (trails)
- The Club provides and installs initial route signs.
 - Town may need to replace damaged or downed signs.
 - Cannot legally ride on a road that does not have a route sign posted.
 - Speed limit is posted below the route sign.
- The Town of Saratoga requires ATVs/UTVs to stay on pavement.
- Decibel law on ATVs is at 96 decibels.
- Anyone 15 years of age and under must ride with a parent or guardian.
- The Club works with area businesses for dropping off and parking trailers.

Requested Routes to consider include:

- Highway U to Lake Road to Townline to Buena Vista
- Highway U to Griffith Avenue to Townline to Buena Vista
- Highway U to Quarry Road to County Highway F
- Highway U to Mill Road to Townline to Pine Grove
- Highway U to Pine Street to 110th Street N & S
- Pine Street to 105th N to Mill
- Highway U to Evergreen E to Highway F
- Highway U to Tower Road to Townline to Pine Grove
- Highway U to WW to 90th Street to 110th Street
- Highway U to Lake Road South on U to Griffith Avenue E
- Highway U to Deer Road E to 90th
- Lake Road North to 95th Street to Elm West to 90th Street, West to Washington to Highway U

Discussion ensued.

Chuck Hanson stated that if the Club sees someone doing something wrong on the trails they will talk to them; they cannot enforce, but can contact the DNR for enforcement.

Frank Johnson, Jr. presented letters from the Town of Saratoga Clerk and Town of Rome Clerk and Police Chief indicating they've had no problems with the Club using the town roads. He also presented a list of petitions from Town of Grant Residents in support of opening Town of Grant roads to ATVs/UTVs.

This topic will be put on the July or August Plan Commission Agenda for further review and discussion.

- Sharon suggested the Plan Commission meet with all other municipalities involved to brainstorm and see what routes need to be opened to connect all townships.
- Plan Commission should review ATV/UTV ordinances from Adams, Saratoga, and Rome townships.
- Consider an ordinance that is renewable annually based upon complaints, road conditions, and acceptance.
- Plan Commission mark routes they desire to open to ATVs/UTVs.
- Club would need to check if the County allows use of Highway U.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (MARCH 4 & MARCH 18)

The March 4, 2015 minutes were reviewed. Ron Becker motioned to approve the March 4th minutes with minor changes; Nathan Wolosek seconded.

The March 18, 2015 minutes were reviewed. Ron Becker motioned to approve the March 18th minutes with minor changes; Sharon Schwab seconded.

TOWN BOARD REPORT

Sharon presented information and/or reported on the following:

- Staffing changes in the Portage County Planning & Zoning Department. The department currently has three vacant staff positions: Water Quality Specialist, Assistant Planning & Zoning Director, and Associate Planner. Until these positions are filled, Jeff Schuler will be point of contact for questions regarding Comprehensive Planning projects.
- Tying Technology to Education, Agriculture, Economics and Workforce Development in Rural Wisconsin 2015 Rural Summit will be held April 23rd at the Heidel House Resort & Spa in Green Lake, WI.
- Letter from Nathan Sandwick, UWSP Extension Community Development Educator, to Patty Dreier, Portage County Executive, regarding grants for broadband coverage to towns.
- Nutrient Management Plans – Protect Wood County and its Neighbors meeting will be held Friday, April 17th from 10:30 am - 3:45 pm at McMillan Public Library.
- Portage County IOH Permitting Workshop for local town and village officials to be held Tuesday, April 28th from 2 - 4 pm at the Portage County Highway Department.
- Portage County Executive Patty Dreier is hosting a Groundwater Summit on Wednesday, April 29th from 6:30 – 9 pm in the County Annex.
- Memo from the Plover Town Board and Plover Plan Commission to Portage County Planning & Zoning Committee (copied to Portage County Town Clerks) regarding proposed text changes to Portage County zoning regulations.
- The hearing for Brian & Kari Pagel's CUP was held and approved.
- The hearing for Gerald Provost's CUP was held and approved.
- Update on the Juniper Lane/84th Street right-of way (R/W).
 - Revocable occupancy permits will be issued to Roy and Lucille Millard for one decorative fence and to Eldred and Buella Getzloff to one perimeter fence currently located on town R/W.
 - After the restrictive period for oak wilt has passed the Town shall commence to clear the R/W on Juniper Lane enough to accommodate access for Marcks residents to achieve a northern driveway.
 - Permits to cut dead, dying or leaning trees encroaching or threatening private property from within town R/W on 84th Street will be issued to any/all landowners in Lots 1-4 who express interest.
 - Millards & Getzloffs provide proof of adequate liability insurance and the Town of Grant and its Town Board be named as additional insured on policies.
 - Sharon sent information to Brian Formella to verify that the Town has adequate Insurance.

ZONING ADMINISTOR REPORT

- In Marty's absence, he relayed information for this update to Sharon.
- Marty has not received a permit fee from Barry Sparks for his accessory building. He followed-up with three phone calls and a written letter to Mr. Sparks.
- Received a response from Bernie Kalfka regarding the CUP for his auto repair business.

- Gave Brian Hephner a CUP application for a part-time auto repair business.
- Issued Jerry Provost's permit.
- Issued Bob Pickhard's permit.
- Received six projects (prints) from Solarus for upgrading with fiber optics. Will be issuing UAP permits.
- Building permits issued for the month of March:
 - Bonson Guldán, 9871 90th Street South – accessory building/pond/address - \$175.
 - Jeff VanDreel, 9220 Lake Road – accessory building - \$50.

CITIZENS IMPUT

- Broken Tree Ranch, an indoor riding arena, deleted their Facebook page and webpage. It was the consensus of the Plan Commission that a CUP would not be pursued at this time.
- A ditch between 95th and Lake has been filled in.

IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY NO-FEE PERMIT REQUESTS

- To date, Sharon and Ron reviewed 44 IOH no-fee permit requests received by the Town of Grant.
- Changed some routes that were incorrect or not the best routes.
- No permit requests were denied.
- It was noted that the Town is ahead of other municipalities in regards to mapping designated/preferred routes. The process has gone smoothly thus far.
- May need to revisit in the future to consider aggregate.
- Nathan stated he would like to see Option "F" – 92K aggregate instead of the 23K axel and would like to discuss this next time IOH Options come up for review.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION ACTION

- The Plan Commission received copies of the Application for Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinance Certification.
- Nathan stated he did some research on the DATCP website for the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) and it appears that the language in our Zoning Ordinance may need to be changed from "Exclusive Ag" to "Ag Enterprise Area".
- Need to ask the County to look at the Town of Grant's current A-1 Exclusive Agricultural District to see if it qualifies for their revised FPP Plan.

At 9:40 pm Ron Becker motioned to adjourn and Sharon Schwab seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Ruess
Acting Plan Commission Secretary