

Town of Plum Lake Planning Committee May 15, 2023

Meeting called to order at 9:02 by chairperson Chuck Rasmussen. Meeting was duly posted at the Sayner Post Office, the Town Hall in Sayner, on the town website:

([www.townofplumlake.com](http://www.townofplumlake.com)) sent to the Vilas County News-Review, the Lakeland Times and WERL-WRJO radio.

Present: Chuck Rasmussen, Deb Seeger, Ida Nemec, Don Novak, Sheehan Donoghue Shane Zaruba Guests: Jackey Postuchow, Judy Wagner, Joyce Helz, Helen Bryner, Bob Munson, DNR (Department of Natural Resources) representatives, Beth Feind and Joe Fieweger.

Citizens Comments: Jackey Postuchow, Town Chairperson asked what is the objective of today's meeting with the DNR. Chuck explained that Land Use Agreements with the DNR have expired. The former board chairman agreed that the planning committee would do the leg work in communicating with the DNR and the sponsoring clubs to work out the new land use agreements (LUA). When the agreements are ready for renewal it would be up to the Town Board to approve them. Jackey noted that several DNR grants would be available once the comprehensive plan is done. Helen Bryner questioned what the DNR is responsible for and what the town is responsible for. She suggested having in writing what maintenance issues the ski club or any other organization, the town and the DNR are responsible for so it does not all fall on the town. Joyce Helz feels that rest rooms are important on town trails.

Shane brought up the issue of the communication tower that is being considered on property on Froelich Drive near the storage buildings. Jackey Postuchow said that residents can dispute it by sending letters of non-support, but noted that County zoning has the final say. The town is limited other than voicing not in favor of a communication tower

Minutes: Minutes from May 1<sup>st</sup> were reviewed. Chuck noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> line in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph listed the DOT (Department of Transportation) rather than the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) as a contact for electrical power. It was decided to eliminate that sentence. Under LUA (Land Use agreements) points regarding the Trampler's Trail, in the second line it should read; UW Stevens Point College of Natural Resources Park and Recreation students. Deb made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Sheehan second. Approved.

Chuck reported that the Town Board approved the Town of Plum Lake Five Year Recreation Plan at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. A public hearing is not needed and the rec plan is ready for grant applications.

The appointment of Don Novak to the planning committee for a three-year term and the renewal of Deb Seeger's position for another three-year term were approved.

Beth Feind and Joe Fieweger from the DNR were introduced. They will work with the planning committee and the Town of Plum Lake to renew expired land use agreements (LUA).

The first item for discussion was State House Point -Boat Landing and the Plum Ski-ers ski site.  
1. Maintenance of public restrooms was discussed. Vandalism has been an issue. Beth had

done a walk through the site before our meeting. According to DNR policy, public restrooms cannot be locked, but consideration is taken for seasonal accessibility. If the area is not accessible in the winter, it would be reasonable to have the facility locked. General maintenance is up to the club. Any permanent buildings or structures should be in safe working condition, kept clean, and be ADA accessible. The DNR should be notified of any maintenance done. When asked about the use of security cameras, Beth said no. The DNR has specific rules for using cameras and it would not apply here.

2. Signage was discussed. It was agreed that visible signs that say what can or cannot be allowed could help avoid misuse and vandalism issues. The DNR has standards for signage listed in a sign handbook. All signage needs to be pre-approved by the DNR. Beth will get us a copy of their policy.

3. Regarding routine maintenance such as loose hanging branches, the club can handle that but if a major storm damage causes issues such as trees down an email, or text or phone call to Beth or the DNR is requested.

4. Plum Ski-ers had concerns about the erosion issue in the seating area. The plan suggested by the Plum Ski-ers does not meet county zoning standards. Beth is working with the county to address these concerns. In this instance the chain of command requires that the Plum Ski-ers report issues to the town, the town reports to Vilas County Zoning and they have the final say.

5. The Plum Ski-ers questioned the possibility of selling beer during their ski shows. Beth said that beer sales are allowed on state land for a special event. A permit would be given for each event. Because the Plum-Ski-ers are requesting a permit to sell beer throughout the entire season, Beth is working on a special permit that would wrap in the sale of beer through the entire season. The state requires that the area where the beer is sold be fenced off and a licensed bartender must be on site. The fence cannot stay up and has to be come down after each event.

6. Another issue of concern was the responsibility of the boat landing ramp. The town would like to see it the responsibility of the DNR. Power-loading is a major issue that damages the landing area. Joe Fieweger said adding rock would be a short-term fix. A new ramp would cost approximately \$200,000. Sheehan asked if there were any laws against power loading. Joe said that the DNR is working on a law against power loading but there is nothing now. Signage was recommended.

7. The Club is also requesting electric service be added to the site. It would be allowed by the DNR, but they would need to know what it is used for. They would determine where it would go in. The town would be responsible for bringing it in and paying for it.

Star Lake: Bob Munson representing the Star Lakers Club who are responsible for maintaining the Old Mill Site and the Trumper's Trail. He noted that restrooms at the Old Mill Site are unlocked 24/7 and they have not had any problems with the restrooms or the pavilion. There is

no fee for the use of the pavilion and reservations are made at the Star Lake Store. Requests for the Old Mill Site are:

1) A gate at the entrance to deter cars and trucks that are coming into the site and tearing up the grounds. Bob asked if the gate could be locked during certain hours to be determined. Beth said if a gate is installed times would be up to the discretion of the DNR.

2) Bob asked about moving the pier as there have been complaints that the current location is too shallow for fishing. Beth said that the agreement would allow the pier to be moved anywhere within park boundaries as long as they check with the DNR before moving it. She also mentioned the possibility of installing another pier specifically for fishing.

3) The club would like to see electric service added to the pavilion for weddings and picnics. Beth said it can be included in the LUA but the cost of installation would be up to the town and the club.

4) Another request is for a paved area for a basketball hoop for older children. Beth noted that the installation of blacktop or asphalt is an issue because it is a historical site.

Trampers Trail: 1) Maintenance and cleanup of the trails is the main issue. Joe Fieweger said that the DNR has gotten feedback saying that the trails have not been kept up. Bob said volunteers have been out and that the trails were in good condition.

2) Reports from the Ballard Lake section show that there is major cleanup to be done due to debris left by loggers. Don asked what responsibility does the DNR have with loggers? The forester works with loggers. Beth will contact the DNR forester to look further into the situation.

3) The committee had questions regarding use of chainsaws by volunteers. Beth said the DNR has no problem with volunteers using chainsaws as long as they have liability insurance and that volunteers are not cutting trees that are healthy. The main issue is to keep the trails safe and passable with whatever equipment is needed within reason.

4) Signage: Questions regarding signs were; who is responsible for signs and who to contact for correct signage. Signs should be posted on 4x4 posts, not hammered to trees. The club can post signs according to standards from DNR handbook

In regard to agreements between clubs and the town, Chuck would like to see an inspection required twice a year. If sections of the trail need to be closed the DNR should be contacted.

Dry Hydrants: Of the four dry hydrants in the town, the only one operational is the one located on highway N by the bridge on Plum Creek. Beth said this is a low priority. Keep the DNR updated when they are operating.

Bike Trails: Chuck noted that Federal Law requires inspection of the bike trail bridge every 5 years. The town is aware of their responsibility for the inspection.

Yard Waster / Composting Site: I-lids camera were updated in 2022. The: Lakes Association takes care of this.

Future Trails: Procedures for creating new trails begin with the DNR checking the site to see if a trail is feasible. The town has to turn in an application for a new land use agreement. If feasible then the trail can be completed. New trails would have to be included in the DNR Master Plan which is due for updating in two years. Beth suggests that we concentrate on updating and maintaining the Trampler's Trail before we add new trails.

Warner's Pier. Chuck asked if there was a land use agreement for trail leading from Highway N to Warner's Pier. It is now maintained by the town. There is no current LUA, but Beth would rather work on getting current LUAs up to date before adding new ones.

Priorities for LUAs would be 1) Plum Ski-ers site 2) The Trampler's Trail and 3) the Bike Bridge. Beth suggested the possibility of creating one agreement for all trails. She will work on the first draft of the Plum Ski-ers agreement and get it to the town for approval for the upcoming season.

Contact information for Beth is [Beth.feind@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Beth.feind@wisconsin.gov) or [wi.gov](mailto:wi.gov) 715-892-0095. To contact Joe: [Joseph.Fieweger@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Joseph.Fieweger@wisconsin.gov) 715-614-5118

Camp McNaughton: Chuck will provide a written agreement from Camp McNaughton to the town at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting for approval for a one-week cleaning crew for Camp McNaughton to clear the Ballard Lake section of the Trampler's Trail. Work is tentatively set for the second week of July.

St. Germain Housing, Chuck had been in contact with the St. Germain housing authority. The apartments in St.Germain were set up as Section 8 limited income units. They work with a management group who will help with contacts and forms. Chuck will get more information.

Future meeting dates; June 12<sup>th</sup> 1PM    June 26<sup>th</sup> 1PM    July 10<sup>th</sup> 1PM    July 24<sup>th</sup> 9AM

Shane made amotion to adjourn. Sheehan second. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM

