

Town of Plum Lake Planning Committee June 26, 2023

Meeting called to order at 1:03 by Chair Chuck Rasmussen. Present: Chuck Rasmussen, Sheehan Donoghue, Deb Seeger, Ida Nemec, Don Novak, Shane Zaruba. Meeting was duly posted at the town hall in Sayner, US Post Office in Sayner, Vilas County News Review, WERL-WRJO radio and posted on the Town of Plum Lake website.

Guests: Libby Scott ,John Richter

Citizen comments: Libby Scott expressed concern about the ATV/UTV use noted in the town's rec plan and comp plan. She cited the Motorized Trail Systems on page 18-19 in the Rec plan and the section under recreation vehicles in chapter 5, page 55 in the Comp plan. She is concerned that these sections lead to ATV/UTV use on town roads, especially the Highway K Rustic Road. She noted that the 2015 survey regarding ATV/UTV use was voted down 2 to 1. John Richter defended concerns about the validity of the survey that are circulating. He explained that the survey was very simple. *Do we favor the use of ATVs on town roads or lands.* 59% of the surveys were returned with 269 yes votes and 598 No votes. Chuck pointed out that the Comp plan is based on factual information and the Town Board is responsible for approval and execution of the plan. The planning committee is only advisory of the town board. The state mandates each municipality to have a long range comprehensive plan.

After lengthy discussion, Sheehan made a motion to delete the beginning of third sentence under Recreational Vehicles in Chapter five: Transportation ; " *There is also an extensive ATV system throughout Vilas County and.* Begin that sentence with: The town has agreed to a limited access route for ATVs and UTVs. Second by Don. Motion passed.

Minutes for May 15<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup> were reviewed. Chuck made a motion to approve the minutes from May 15<sup>th</sup>. Second by Deb. Approved. Deb made a motion to approve minutes from June 12<sup>th</sup>. Second by Don. Approved.

Comp plan final edits: Chuck proposed the following addition to Chapter Five: Transportation, page 55:

New paragraph: The Town of Plum Lake has submitted an application with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to fund a Hiking and Biking Circulation

Study. This study would evaluate ways to improve community connectivity for residents and visitors wishing to travel in a non-motorized manner. The study evaluates both circulation patterns within the communities of Sayner and Star Lake, as well as providing a trail to connect the two communities.

Don made a motion to accept this addition to Chapter Five. Second by Deb. Motion approved.

In the introduction under History, Deb made a motion to add the following sentence to the end of the first paragraph. " Sayner is recognized universally as the Birthplace of the Snowmobile". Second by Sheehan. Motion passed.

Deb made a motion to accept these three resolutions to the Comp Plan. Second by Sheehan. Motion approved.

Final edits will be forwarded to Sam at NCWRPC to prepare final copies.

Resolution: The Resolution #2023-005 asking the Town Board to approve the Town of Plum Lake Comprehensive Plan was reviewed. After review, the resolution was signed and will be presented to the Town Board.

Preparation for Public Hearing: 15 copies of the comp plan will be provided as part of the original NCWRPC contract. There is a \$15 charge for additional copies. A pdf will be available on the town website. NCWRPC provides access to other communities on their website. Each town board member gets a copy (4), one for each committee member (6), seven (7) to be made available at the library with two for in library use and five for three day check out, three (3) to be left at the Town Hall. Total 20 copies which is an additional five copies at \$15 each for a total of \$75.

The public hearing on the comp plan does not allow edits to the plan. Comments given by the public will be passed along to the Town Board. The Town Board has the authority to make any modifications as addendums.

Rest rooms: Deb provided pictures from a basic concrete block toilet in Antigo. The DNR provided contact information on toilets they have used. Another suggestion was to use the Razorback Ridges warming house as a guide. Funding was discussed. Chuck mentioned suggesting to the town board that a portion of the room tax be set aside for public restrooms.

Upcoming Committee meetings. Issues to address are: Land Use Plans and what more is needed from the committee, develop concepts for the Alexander property, water treatment issues with Vilas County Zoning David Sadenwasser and discuss options for the bicycle plan circulator through town, as we wait for news about the TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grant application for bike trail planning.

Town board expectations from the Planning Committee: Questions to check into are who will chair and manage the public hearing on the comp plan, the committee or town board chair and should a time limit be set per person for comments. The public hearing is for questions and answers and is not a debate.

The committee needs to prepare for our next meeting so we can discuss our future focus for board approval including upcoming budget process.

Next meeting is July 10<sup>th</sup> at 1PM. July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will be with Vilas County Zoning at 1PM.

Sheehan made a motion to adjourn at 3:33 PM. Second by Deb. Approved