

## Town of Plum Lake Planning Committee Meeting August 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:14 by committee chair Chuck Rasmussen. Meeting was duly posted at the US Post Office in Sayner, the Plum Lake Town Hall, WRJO/WERL radio, Vilas News Review and the Town of Plum Lake website. Present: Don Novak, Chuck Rasmussen, Shane Zaruba, Sheehan Donoghue, Deb Seeger, Ida Nemec. Guests: Joyce Helz, Libby Scott

Citizen comments: Libby Scott offered her support of the comprehensive plan. However, issues she brought forward were; according to a Wisconsin attorney the ATV ordinance is dead, summer residents feel excluded from town business as Zoom is not available and seasonal and non-voters need to be heard.

Joyce Helz suggested residents get on the town's email list. She said that having the minutes posted online in a timely manner is helpful.

In response to Libby's concerns, Shane noted that the town board listens to their constituents, the taxpayers and voters and represents the people based on democratic process. Deb said that the survey that was omitted from the comprehensive plan was 8 years old. There are many changes over the years. Libby suggested a new referendum. A discussion on whether a referendum in Wisconsin is binding or advisory. Sheehan will look into it. Libby's concern was that seasonal residents are not being heard.

Chuck noted that the committee signed a resolution approving the Comprehensive Plan and forwarded it to the town which led up to the Public Hearing last Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, It is now up to the town board to make changes.

Minutes from the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Deb made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sheehan seconded. Motion carried.

Action Plan for the Alexander property: Several suggestions were offered for moving ahead with the land use plan. Don noted in the WEDC (Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation) document that labor force issues in the Northwoods lists Vilas and Oneida County as childcare deserts. The possibility of a childcare center was offered. Chuck said there is a possibility of federal funding for childcare facilities. Sheehan suggested developers such as SCS, (Swiderski Services) out of Wausau might offer land use suggestions. Shane suggested the possibility of a cooperative. Investments might be more appealing. People who have insights into land use needs might include ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center). They may offer ideas on housing needs and waiting lists for housing. The town of Minocqua is looking for housing for seasonal workers and entry level positions. They may offer suggestions as to what the housing needs are in the area. When we meet with the Vilas County zoning representative on August 18<sup>th</sup>, many of our questions regarding maximum lot size, septic issues, land use possibilities and how the property is zoned may be answered.

Action Plan for TAP (Transportation Alternative Program): Don Novak and Chuck Rasmussen are on the selection committee to find a consultant to coordinate the TAP grant process. They are

looking for a town board member to complete the committee. It is required to have a list of three consultants to present to the DOT (Department of Transportation) by September 12. Sheehan questioned the possibility of a Citizen Advisory Committee consisting of biking advocates in the community. Chuck would like to have open workshops to explore and create a list of alternative bike paths and ideas. Time frame for the TAP grant: Consultant could be chosen by mid-September. It could be possible to have two workshops in September and two in October and one in November and December.

Budget: Chuck noted that as we begin the budget process, matching funds for the TAP grant need to be considered as well as administrative costs.

Sheehan said we need to push for a meeting with the town board so that we can determine the expectations of the town board for the planning committee. It would also be beneficial for the planning committee to meet with the other working committees in the town; the lakes committee, the broadband committee, the cemetery committee and the public safety committee.

Chuck will develop a preliminary plan for the budget and restrooms and a crosswalk for biking path to playground.

Sheehan made a motion to adjourn. Second by Shane. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 AM.