

Plan Commission Meeting July 6, 2010

Cal Oldenburg called the regular monthly Plan Commission meeting to order at 7:00PM in the meeting room at the Town Hall. Present were Cal Oldenburg, Gene Stanis, Ken Uhlhorn, James Schorer, Peter Thelen (alternate), Peter Jacobs, Douglas Smith and 1 visitor.

Clerk verified posting. Motion made/second Gene/Jim to accept the agenda. Carried.

Accept minutes – Motion made/second Jim/Gene to accept the minutes. Carried.

Citizen input – None.

Billie Johnson – Discussion on possible regulation of communication towers – Billie's understanding is that currently, there is no regulation of communication towers until they reach a height of 75 feet. It seems to her that regulation of towers under 75 should be considered. She passed a picture of a tower that was built on Cana Cove Road that's very close the home next door. She feels it would be a sensible time to take a look at some sort of regulation. The tower she has a picture of was built by the homeowner and is used for high speed internet. While the tower is privately owned, the communication is commercial. Gene asked what sort of regulations should be applied. Billie stated she wasn't an expert, but it just seems like since homes, garages and accessory buildings are regulated, she feels these should be regulated as well. Peter explained that the County has a separate ordinance just for towers. Billie said that she had talked to the County Resource Planning Committee and they didn't seem to be concerned. Peter J. said that we currently regulate the construction of buildings, and it might be a good idea to think about towers. Jim mentioned that since we're working on Smart Growth, it might be a good idea to address it during that project. Billie will write a letter to the consultant. He may have some ideas as to how other municipalities have handled communications towers. We'll start with that and see what information we can get.

Discussion on possibly formulating a plan to guide and select future public property purchases – It's been suggested that the Commission work on prioritizing properties that the Town might be interested in purchasing. Currently, Square Rigger, Florian's, The Red Geranium and the McArdle house have all been offered to the Town. Cal suggested each Commission member think about this over the next month and come up with their ideas as to what properties the Town should be pursuing. Peter T. asked who owned the land directly south of the Red Geranium. Clerk explained that it's the same owners as the post office property. In fact, it's the same parcel as the post office. Jim feels it's very important for the Town to think about this sort of thing, considering what other municipalities are doing. It comes down to what the Town should look like 20 years from. Part of this would also overlap with the Smart Growth revisions. Peter J. suggested looking at the different factors, such as historical, expanding existing Town property, preservation of waterfront properties, etc. Jim mentioned that when Michigan considered coastline, they decided that there would be a safe harbor every 30 miles and it has greatly helped tourism. Cal just wanted everyone to start thinking about this topic.

Committee input/recommendations for next month's agenda – Ken would like to talk about the fact Baileys Harbor doesn't have an early warning system, such as tornado sirens. Clerk will do some calling and it will be on the agenda next month. Cal mentioned that Roy Cole contacted him about the Historical Society doing an inventory of historic buildings tomorrow. If 2 of the Commission members wanted to go, they could. As for Smart Growth, Jeff Sanders will be contacting Doug to schedule the next meeting. Gene asked about cable. Clerk stated Charter Communications simply said "no."

Motion made/second Gene/Ken to adjourn at 7:32PM. Carried.

These minutes are subject to correction at the next regular monthly Town Board meeting.

Douglas Smith
Town Clerk