

Plan Commission Meeting May 4, 2015

Gordon Rowley called the regular monthly Plan Commission meeting to order at 6:00PM in the meeting room at the Town Hall. Present were Gordon Rowley, Carol Williams, Cal Oldenburg, Bill Nelson, Jim Schorer, Peter Jacobs, Douglas Smith and 10 visitors.

Clerk/Administrator verified posting. Motion made/second Carol/Cal to accept the agenda. Carried.

Accept minutes – Motion made/second Carol/Cal to approve the February 2 minutes. Carried. Motion made/second Cal/Bill to approve the March 26 minutes. Carried.

Citizen input – None.

Consideration of potential community design workshop – Rob Burke of the Door County UW Extension Office and Todd Johnson of UW River Falls were present to explain the program. It is based on a 1983 Minnesota Design Team model, has been used by more than 120 communities in Minnesota, and is now supported and facilitated by the UW Extension system. The application is to be done by the community and not just the local governing body. The workshop itself would take place in a concentrated period of a 3-day visit (charrette) by 8-20 professionals, such as planners, architects, economists, engineers, biologists, etc., who would stay in local homes during their visit. The cost is \$5,000.00, but the resulting product would cost anywhere from \$100,000.00 to \$200,000.00 if done by a paid consultant. The results are visual and can range from ideas that could be implemented immediately to ideas for the future. The visit would take place in either fall or spring. Right now, they are looking at the first weekend in November. The application would have to be in by some point in June. Motion made/second Jim/Bill to recommend to the Town Board that they approve moving forward with the community design charrette and authorize the Plan Commission to oversee the application process. Carried.

Consideration of preliminary planning process and ideas for Town's use of the Parent property authorized to be purchased by the Town at Annual Town Meeting (approximately 80 acres south of the downtown area, along the west side of Highway 57, north of County Highway E) – Doug spoke with Chris Halbur of the DNR and we have received a letter of retroactivity from them for grant funding, meaning if the transaction goes forward, we can still apply for grants after-the-fact. However, a plan would need to be in place, so Peter presented some preliminary concepts for the Commission's consideration. Although many natural or public uses may be eligible for grant funding, commercial uses or putting up houses may not be. One idea was to turn the unused portion of the Severn Street right-of-way into a shared walk/bike path, which could connect to the property in question. We could also protect the natural view of the corridor coming into Town. There could be some sort of trail system connecting to the Rec. Park which is adjacent to the property, and the Rec. Park could be expanded if/when needed. The wastewater treatment plant is also next to it, so it would provide another option for expansion if/when needed. Another idea is to have some type of conservation subdivision with a trail system on part of the property. The town would provide the infrastructure (roads, sewer, etc.). Gordon met with Peter about these ideas and then reviewed the Smart Growth plan to see if purchasing the land would coincide with it. He discovered these ideas would meet five of the six major topics, seven of thirteen goals and more than twenty objectives or policies contained the plan. The general consensus of the Plan

Commission is that they support the acquisition of the property. Peter and Gordon will present these ideas at the Town Board meeting next week.

Reports from meetings attended, if any – None.

Motion made/second Carol/Cal to adjourn at 7:54PM.

These minutes are subject to correction at the next regular monthly Plan Commission meeting.

Douglas Smith

Town Clerk/Administrator