

Minutes of the Town of Round Lake Plan Commission Special Public Informational Meeting August 28, 2019.

Present: Land Use Plan Commission Members: Carol Bacon (Chair), Denise Picchietti, Ben Neiman, Steve Boe, Ann Berlage, and Sharon Haak. Committee member Sara Gunn arrived at 7:50 p.m.

Also present were Town Clerk Kathy McCoy, Town Board Chair Rolfe Hanson, and Town Board Supervisors: Kay Wilson, Sandra Schara, and Marilyn Karns, along with 5 additional audience members.

- 1.) Meeting started at 6:30 p.m.
- 2.) Chairperson Carol Bacon provided attendees with an introduction as to the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan and required 10 year update.
- 3.) Chairperson Carol Bacon introduced each Commission member and outlined the format for the meeting. The nine elements of the Plan /Chapters were presented by Commission Members: Community Demographics – Carol Bacon, Housing – Denise Picchietti, Transportation – Denise Picchietti, Utilities and Community Facilities – Carol Bacon, Agricultural Natural and Cultural Resources - Ann Berlage, Economic Development – Steve Boe, Intergovernmental Cooperation – Sharon Haak, Land Use – Sharon Haak, and Implementation – Sara Gunn. Copies of the draft plan were available for individuals to follow along with in addition to maps for review by the public.

4.) Plan contents:

Element One: Community Demographics – Bacon

Bacon gave an overview of Town Demographics: Population age, Education level, Household Income, Employment levels, and Employment by Industry.

Audience Comments/ Questions: None

Element Two (2) Housing – Picchietti.

Picchietti gave an overview of Housing in the Town of Round Lake: Units, Types, and Ownership. Seasonal Housing in the Town of Round Lake has increased 12.2% in the last 25 years. Trend is toward more seasonal (second homes) many of which are being rented.

Audience Comments/ Questions:

- Need to identify the number of vacation (short term) rentals in plan. Sawyer County Database could be used as a benchmark for this.

Element Three (3) Transportation – Picchietti.

Audience Comments/ Questions:

- Review of Town road ratings original plan vs. amended (10 year) plan. Overall quality of paved roads has remained good.
- Need to identify total road miles in plan; paved vs. unpaved.

Element Four (4) Utilities and Community Facilities: Bacon

Bacon discussed the need for additional electrical substation out in Moose Lake area, along with the need for better cell phone service in the area.

Audience Comments/ Questions-

- Favor and advocate for underground electrical lines if expansion occurs.
- Problems with communication Fire, EMS, and Town Road Crew continue to be an issue in the Town.
- Solid Waste Disposal (page 4.1) Town Recycling Site – accepts both clean recycling (no charge) and bagged garbage for a fee.
- Telecommunication Facilities & Services (page 4:2) typo's and reference to no cellular telephone towers / emergency personnel incorrect. Television and Radio (page 4:2) WOJB – public radio – tribally operated Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwa.
- Utilities & Community Facilities Timetable (page 4:6) Recycling Center Rehab 2020-2030- what if anything is planned? Need to review entire chart.

Element Five (5) Agriculture, Natural & Cultural Resources: Berlage.

Berlage reviewed the overall plan objective for this area: Preserve and enhance farming as both an environmentally responsible occupation and sustainable agriculture business while maintaining productive farmland and preserving natural resources.

Audience Comments/ Questions:

- Chart (page 5:13) Review and correct.
- Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival name change (page 5:35)

Element Six (6) Economic Development: Boe

Boe gave an overview of chapter: Median household income, median age of town residence, unemployment rate, along with identification of Town strengths and weaknesses. Good internet and cell phone is needed to enhance economic growth in the Town.

Audience Comments/ Questions:

- Add short term rentals into this chapter (economic impact/ revenues & cost to Town).
- Identify and/ or address a goal of sustainable economic development in plan.
- Resilience of economic development in community should be addressed.

Element Seven (7) Intergovernmental Cooperation: Haak

Haak gave a brief overview of intergovernmental cooperative agreements the Town shares with adjacent municipalities and governmental agencies: Citing that the Town has a very good relationship with these entities.

Audience Comments/ Questions: None.

Element Eight (8) Land Use: Haak

Maps on tables for display and comment: notepads provided at each map location to indicate areas in question or need of correction. Haak reviewed anticipated trends that will affect the Town in the future as noted on page 8:12.

Audience Comments/ Questions:

- Action six (page 8:13) seems to contradict itself. Maintaining large tracts of forested land / encourage minimum parcel size 5-10 acres.

Element nine (9) Implementation: Gunn

Gunn explained that the verb-age in this section basically remained the same as original plan. Goals and Objectives of each element were removed as they already are identified in association with each individual element.

Audience Comments/ Questions: None

The information meeting portion of the meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.

7.) The Commission discussed take away from meeting: Noting several things: Short term rentals are becoming, and will continue to be a big issue: The need for the Commission to look at and work with goals and objectives of the plan more thoroughly in the future.

Draft plan will go to Town Board for Comments. Plan Commission will review and incorporate changes and corrections to Draft Plan at Regular Scheduled Meeting September 25th, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McCoy, Clerk

