

**ROUND LAKE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, March 8, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Town of Round Lake Plan Commission was held virtually on 03/08/23. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Ann Berlage, with Sarah Gunn as secretary.

**ATTENDEES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Berlage, Sarah Gunn, Martin Hanson, Jane Bidwell, Don Stover

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Stover, Ginny Chabek, Kay Wilson

AUDIENCE: none

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve agenda: Jane Bidwell

2nd: Don Stover

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES for February 8, 2023, REGULAR MEETING**

Motion to approve: Jane Bidwell

2nd: Don Stover

**AUDIENCE RECOGNITION and GENERAL COMMENTS- Comments Only**

none

**BOARD MEETING REPORT -- Ann Berlage**

- LUPC recommended approval of CUP #23-002 Bob & Elaine Thompson Trust with conditions of normal operating hours of 7 am-7 pm, crushing hours of 8-5 pm, and no hot plant unless HWY 77 needs to be re-blacktopped within 15 miles of the plant.
- Review Code of Ethics Ordinance - in favor of Ordinance concept - noting need to review/ change Section 4C and subcontractor language
- ATV/UTV signage on Town Roads- discussed targeting signs in area where there have been complaints – recommendation to follow through with petitions that meet specific requirements, asking for additional signage that meets established standards.
- Continued work on: High Capacity Wells; Outdoor Recreation Plan, Dark Skies.

**STATUS: CUP #23-002: Bob & Elaine Thompson Trust**

Town Board approved CUP #23-002 - renewal of permit for the location of a non-metallic mineral extraction, including rock crusher and hot mix plan - with the Plan Commission's recommendations. This process has proceeded to the county level.

**STATUS: Code of Ethics ordinance for the Town of Round Lake**

The Town Board passed this ordinance after striking section 4C.

**STATUS: Ground And Surface Water Baseline Testing Sub-Committee Report**

Don reported the next meeting will be March 31 @10:30 via Zoom; Goal = 120 samples would get 1 sample in every square mile; Matt McKay is getting info with any price increases. Discussion of getting info out to lake associations.

**STATUS: High-Capacity Wells**

The Town Chair is waiting to hear back from lawyers on this topic. Spider Lake is interested in a possible partnership with our Town in this area.

**STATUS: Outdoor Recreation Plan**

Nothing to report at this time.

**STATUS: ATV/UTV Signage on Town Roads**

Viewed as an educational process, the board is prioritizing education over signage. However, they also plan to address signage and revise the ordinance at the next Board Meeting. Currently, the ordinance only specifies the roads where ATV/UTVs are permitted, but does not indicate which roads are off-limits for them.

**DISCUSSION: Dark Skies**

The Board instructed the Commission to adopt an educational strategy for the Dark Skies issue and requested a revision of the handout created by the Plan Commission for County Zoning. Ann discovered relevant information on the Dark Skies website that could be utilized to produce pamphlets. There was a discussion on which would be more effective digital copies or hard copies of the pamphlets. Rrelocating the Dark Skies information from the Town website to the community tab was also revisited.

**DISCUSSION: Short-Term Rental Ordinance**

Ginny updated the group on the status of the county-wide short-term rental ordinance being examined by County Zoning. She expressed her interest in joining the County's Ad-hoc committee tasked with exploring this issue. It was noted that a similar issue had been raised in 2015, but was ultimately stalled due to state legislation at the time. Martin also expressed an interest in participating in the Ad-hoc committee. The Commission discussed whether the Town should establish its own ordinance prior to the County developing one or if they should just collaborate with the Ad-hoc committee. Ann offered to review the Town's Comprehensive Plan to determine which goals and objectives align with short-term rentals.

**DISCUSSION: Proposed ATV/UTV Route Ordinance**

Washburn County has already established an ATV/UTV Route ordinance, and Sawyer County is currently in the process of developing one as well. Although Washburn County's ordinance does not provide any direction for Towns, it could still serve as a reference point for the Commission as they begin drafting an ATV/UTV ordinance for the Town of Round Lake.

**DISCUSSION: Oak Wilt Presentation**

The DNR will be giving a presentation on March 25 at 10:00 am via Zoom meeting regarding oak wilt. Oak wilt can be found in Town of Round Lake so attendance may be

of interest to our residents. Spider Lake is partnering with us on this issue and is also inviting their Town residents.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

At the meeting, it was proposed that the Comprehensive Plan's Economic Development Element be examined as several of the current agenda items are linked to this element. Additionally, the 2019 update stated that the Commission would reassess the Comprehensive Plan every two years to determine if updates are needed. Attendees were encouraged to review the Economic Development Element before the next meeting and arrive with their feedback and questions.

#### **NEXT TOWN OF ROUND LAKE PLAN COMMISSION MEETING**

April 12, 2023, at 6:00 pm. - in-person at the Town Hall or virtual through Webex

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:00 pm**

Motion: Don Stover

2nd: Jane Bidwell

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Gunn