

**ROUND LAKE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, April 12, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Town of Round Lake Plan Commission was held virtually on 04/12/23. 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, Rolfe Hanson

AUDIENCE: Tony Puleo

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve agenda: Don Stover

2nd: Sarah Gunn

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

Motion by Ann Berlage to approve with the amendment of *This process proceeded to the county level and passed with conditions recommended by the Plan Commission and town board* added to the end of the CUP #23-004 Status

2nd: Don Stover

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

none

**ACTION: CUP #23-005: TowerNorth Development LLC and Verizon Wireless**

Tony Puleo reported that the cell coverage in the Round Lake area is not optimal. To address this, Tower North will be constructing a tower and Verizon will install an antenna to improve coverage. The expected coverage area is all of Round Lake, and a propagation map will be available to show the coverage. The current plan does not involve 4-5G equipment, but eventually, 5G equipment will be installed. However, for true 5G, smaller towers would be required every 1000 feet, which is not part of Verizon's plan. The tower's height is expected to be 275 feet. Martin raised a concern about the strobe or beacon at the top of the tower and how it might impact the Town's Dark Skies initiative.

Motion to recommend approval of CUP #23-005 as it follows the goals and objectives in our comprehensive plan to expand broadband and cell coverage within the Town by Sarah Gunn

2nd: Jane Bidwell

Discussion: Martin does not support this motion without being able to see the propagation map.

## **BOARD MEETING REPORT -- Ann Berlage**

- Ground and Surface Water Baseline testing program will continue this year. First meeting March 31st @ 10:30 am via WebEx – Goal 120 samples - 1 sample in every square mile.
- Commission work on Dark Skies and ATV/UTV Signage – educational strategy for both these issues continues.
- Short–Term Rental Ordinance – County Ordinance being examined by County Zoning: Supervisor Chabek and LUPC member Martin Hanson both expressed interest in joining the County Ad-hoc committee tasked with exploring this issue.

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

Report from March 31 meeting; Don shared that the price for the water testing from UW-Stevens Point has increased by \$1, bringing the total cost to \$118. The \$30 co-pay will cover the testing for bacteria and chloroform. The Town will need to pay \$133 for each test kit, and they are planning to target 120 people within the Town. To get the word out about the testing, the Town will advertise on the radio. They are currently waiting for the County to provide the cost for Manganese testing. Additionally, Julia Lions will speak with the DNR about testing for PFAs, also known as forever chemicals. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21st. The Towns of Hunter and Spider Lake have also shown interest in conducting their own ground and surface water baseline testing, and Matt McKay and Julia Lions have been contacted for assistance. Don and Martin discussed the importance of informing the Town's lake associations about the testing information.

### **STATUS: High-Capacity Wells**

During the discussions with a Washburn attorney, it was noted that if the Town cannot regulate the wells, there may be an opportunity to regulate transportation. The Board will have further discussions with attorneys to determine the next course of action. This matter is on the April Town Board agenda.

### **STATUS: Outdoor Recreation Plan**

Martin reported difficulty in moving forward because there is uncertainty about the intended use of the plan and how it will be utilized in the future. He also questioned how much overlap exists with the Sawyer County Rec Plan and what depth the Town's rec plan should have. Jane also reported that this plan seems to duplicate what the County has already done with their Recreation Plan, but believes it is necessary for the Town of Round Lake to also have a Recreation Plan in order to secure grant funding. In response, Town Chair Hanson explained that the primary reason for creating the plan is to be eligible for certain outdoor recreation grants. The County has a plan that is updated every five years, and the Town may be able to become included in the County plan or create its own. Chairman Hanson suggested checking out NWRPC's plan samples and shared a contact in Spooner for additional information. Martin noted that Sand Lake is using the County Plan to assist with their grant proposal for the Stone Lake Lions Park, and Jane expressed interest in pursuing a similar approach. Hanson clarified that there is no urgency to complete this project this year, as grant deadlines are typically May 1st, and there won't be any forward movement for at least one or two years. Martin agreed to contact the County for more information on the process.

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

At its last meeting, the Town Board expressed a greater interest in creating an ordinance rather than relying on additional signage. This matter will be addressed at the upcoming Town Board meeting. A letter is being prepared to distribute to short-term rentals within the Town. The discussion then focused on whether some Town roads could be allowed to have signage or if residents could apply for a sign for their road. It was suggested that data should be gathered and presented to the Board before any decision is made. Motion for Ann to communicate with the Town Board a recommendation that landowners can request to the board a sign be posted on identified "trouble roads": Martin Hanson 2nd: Don Stover

**DISCUSSION: Dark Skies**

Jane reported that she has had difficulties communicating with the Dark Sky Initiative. However, she recently learned that they are in the process of changing their name, which might explain why they have not been responding to her requests.

**DISCUSSION: Short-Term Rental Ordinance**

Ann pointed out Economic Development Goal 1, Obj 2 from the Comprehensive Plan and action item 5 under the 2009 version of the Comprehensive Plan. Martin and Ginny expressed their interest in serving on the ad-hoc committee at the County and to contribute to the discussion in a way that benefits both the County and the Town.

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

This matter is on the April agenda of the Town Board Meeting. At the April Plan Commission Meeting it was discovered the Plan Commission has been referring to a Washburn ordinance on establishing routes, while the Board has been reviewing a Town of Hunter ordinance. The Commission will wait for the Board's discussion and decision in order to know how to proceed.

**DISCUSSION: Comprehensive Plan Update Element 6: Economic Development**

This element has one identified goal with 3 objectives. These were not changed from the 2009 version of the Comprehensive Plan. Sarah will contact the County to obtain information on who to contact regarding updating the data tables for this Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

**ANNOUNCEMENT: Sarah Gunn Resignation**

Sarah's term is up in May 2023, and she will be resigning at the end of that time.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Who will take over Vice President & Secretary duties after Sarah's resignation?  
How to explain role of Plan Commission to new Board members; discussion to continue open communication lines; possibly include Element Goal on our action items being sent to the Board; include a document explaining role of Plan Commission to new members

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

May 10, 2023, at 6:00 pm. - in-person at the Town Hall or virtual through Webex

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:39 pm**

Motion: Don Stover

2nd: Sarah Gunn

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Gunn