

ROUND LAKE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, August 9, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Town of Round Lake Plan Commission was held virtually and in person on 08/09/23.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Ann Berlage, with Ginny Chabek as secretary.

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Berlage, Ginny Chabek, Martin Hanson, Steve Boe, Don Stover

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Don Stover

AUDIENCE: Linda Zillmer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Motion by Don, 2nd by Martin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for July 2023, REGULAR MEETING

Motion to approve: Don with corrections

2nd: Martin

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION and GENERAL COMMENTS- Comments Only None

BOARD MEETING REPORT -- Ann Berlage

- Reviewed legal standards for variance
- Variance application 23-003 recommendation to deny based on no hardship and damaging to the public interest
- Update that the Sawyer County Zoning proposed ordinance did not pass
- Water testing update
- Recreational plan
- ATV/UTV issues
- Comprehensive plan survey Information we have is old and that we need to do a quality approach to a new survey
- Dark Skies update
- STR committee update
- Element 6 Economic Development – gathering data
- Technology infrastructure funding

STATUS and DISCUSSION: Variance Application 23-003

TORL Board unanimously denied the variance based on protection of the wetland that is contiguous to Lower Twin Lake. Also noted that there is no existence of a hardship.

BOA meeting – Don attended, DNR letter supported denial of the variance. The BOA did not follow the 3 step process and approved the variance 3 to 1.

Ann talked with WTA attorney who responded that the Town Board needs to decide if they wish to appeal by attorney to the local circuit court.

Feedback from the Commission: The BOA did not follow the 3 step process. The Chair talked about the request fitting into the spirit of the ordinance – suggesting that they were legislating rather than applying the existing law.

Motion by Martin to ask the Town Board to formally file legal objection for approval of the variance with the 30 day period ending August 18th, also asking for reimbursement of legal fees incurred by the Town.

2nded by Ginny
Unanimous with Don recusing

Linda asked the Commission to add that there should be a discussion between the Town and the County on process similar to what happened last year. Zoning is no longer sending our opinion letters and reading comments into the record during the meeting. She recommends getting copies of the information packets that go out to neighbors. She agrees that the process was not properly followed by the BOA. Identify the process issues as part of the overall problem.

Martin added concerns about the way that the BOA handled the process without following the 3 step process. Sentiment that the Chair handled the discussion without consideration for the work done by the Town LUPC and the Town Board.

Motion by Ginny 2nd by Martin with Don recusing to forward the amended letter of disagreement with the decision to the Board to reinforce the previous motion.

STATUS: Ground And Surface Water Baseline Testing Sub-Committee Report
44 requests have been received. The County has 40 tests to hand out. The registration is now closed. The Town was able to fill in testing in some areas where there was previously no data.

STATUS: High-Capacity Wells – no update

STATUS: Outdoor Recreation Plan

Copy of the Sawyer County Plan has been shared with the group. The following are ideas that were generated by the commission to reduce conflict and create additional recreational opportunities.

- An ATV trail next to County Rd S - Request to open the road to ATVs
- An ATV trail next to County Rd B, including separate bridges - Requests to open the road to ATVs
- A paved bike lane next to McClaine Rd. - Request from neighbors and users of the road for multiple purposes
- Create a Town of Round Lake town park on town owned land, possible the acreage on “A” near the town hall.

- Look at the possibility to dovetail into the paved bike path that goes from Hayward to the casino. Extend that bike path out to our township.
- Lions Pavilion and Park on Town Land. Bike/hiking paths for families and children, prairie restoration, native flowers, etc.
- Separated bike lane loop route around a lake or some other scenic area.

Next step – Martin to work with someone (possibly Jane) to develop the plan based on these goals. Entertain more ideas going forward.
Keep this on the agenda moving forward.

STATUS and DISCUSSION: ATV/UTV Requests to open additional roads to ATV/UTV traffic

Wisconsin Towns Association Report – Ann

Ann spoke with the WTA attorney. WTA is not taking a position on the opening of Town Roads to ATV/UTV. There is one bill at the State level regarding alcohol on ATVs that was not passed in the past. He did not think it would be passed.

Linda Zillmer commented that the WTA has historically not stepped in on the ATV/UTV issue. She was at Washburn county meetings where people were concerned about backlash from Tourism, Tavern owners, ATV enthusiasts when they drafted their letter to the State asking for regulation. She asks that there be a speed limit for AV/UTVs. Question about how snowmobiles on roads are handled.

Recommendation to pull out the plan reference along with safety concerns and the Resolution regarding how to add a route and present it to the Board in a future meeting. Keep this on the agenda.

There is reference to the Towns' opinions in the County ordinance.

May be included in the next Economic development and extension committee meeting.

Ginny to work with Ann to develop a statement for support for the Board. Don to distribute the ATV process resolution to the Commission for review.

STATUS: Dark Skies – Distribution of materials to Lake Associations

STATUS: Short Term Rental Ordinance – Ginny

Ginny stated that the goal of the committee is to develop a recommendation for the County board based on regulations/licensing involving county jurisdictions of zoning, environmental health, health & human services, land records and education, then forward those recommendations to the Board.

STATUS: Comprehensive Plan update Element 6: Economic Development

Ann received new data on Economic Development and is working on incorporating it into the next version of the Comprehensive Plan. Current objectives – 3 items

- Prevent uncontrolled commercial development
- Attract and retain quality businesses and industries that improve the employment and personal income base of the Town
- Ensure that the future commercial and industrial development is compatible with the rural character of the Town of Round Lake.

Economically we have seen a decrease. Goal is to revisit each objective prior to the next update. This one is a good one to pick as we have the updated data.

Nov 2019 version Implementation page 7 of 8 Element 6 Economic Development.

DISCUSSION: Technology Infrastructure Fund – Cindy

No update, keep it on the agenda

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NEXT TOWN OF ROUND LAKE PLAN COMMISSION MEETING

September 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm. - in-person at the Town Hall or virtual through Webex
MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:17pm.

Motion: Don

2nd: Ginny

Respectfully submitted by Ginny Chabek