

**TOWN OF OSCEOLA
PLAN COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 16, 2019
MINUTES**

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The Plan Commission of the Town of Osceola met for a regular monthly meeting Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Dresser, Wisconsin.

A notice for this meeting was posted July 8, 2019 at the Town Hall, the Dresser Post Office, First National Community Bank and the Town of Osceola Website.

PLAN COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DOUG SCHMIDT CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Kris Braml, Doug Schmidt, Tony Havranek, Bob Wright, Amy Middleton and Kim Hoverman.

Absent: Jim Berg. Tony Havranek left the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT: Lorraine Rugroden – Clerk/Treasurer, Neil & Rebekah Gustafson, Gae & Tom Magnafici, Ted Johnson, Warren Johnson, Brandon Whittaker, Craig Gustafson and Brian Claussen.

There WAS a majority of Plan Commission members present.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MIDDLETON/BRAML TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA FOR THE JULY 16, 2019 PLAN COMMISSION MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MINUTES ACCEPTANCE:

MOVED AND SECONDED BY WRIGHT/HOVRMAN TO ACCEPT THE JUNE 18, 2019 PLAN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

BUSINESS

Factory Farming; What Roll Towns Have

Andy Marshal, Lawyer from Minneapolis and farm owner at Trade Lake, addressed the Plan Commission and those in attendance regarding the feasibility of enacting an ordinance regulating Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and/or a moratorium. He said it's important that towns take action up front and enact an ordinance instead of waiting for someone to file a public nuisance lawsuit (when one residence is doing something to harm the other property.) Wisconsin Statute 823.08 puts severe restrictions on what a neighbor can do in terms of claiming damage once a CAFO is up and running. Andy listed a number of concerns associated with the operation of CAFOs, including: ground water contamination, surface water contamination, diminution of air quality, greenhouse gas and climate change, odors, insect vectors, pathogens, antibiotics and property values. Towns can adopt reasonable & scientific findings of fact that further restrict CAFOs.

Ted Johnson, dairy farmer with a herd of 300 cows in the Town of Alden said that CAFOs are more highly regulated than any other farms in the area. It's important that the Plan Commission hear all the information, not just the one side. The notion that there is going to be runoff and contamination from the CAFOs is fear mongering. Ted said there are five CAFOs in Polk County and there has not been an issue with any of them. According to Ted, this is a predominately agricultural area, but he does agree there are certain areas that CAFOs shouldn't be in.

Chairman Schmidt stressed that the Plan Commission is not trying to stop CAFOs but they are looking at what can be added to the comprehensive plan that would allow the Town Board to future plan. CAFO's will also be addressed at the Polk County Towns Association meeting on August 22, 2019.

Others mentioned that they would like if someone from the other side was brought in like the DNR, DATCP and the Dairy Business Association. Bob Wright said he doesn't want to stop CAFOs but instead wants to have a say. Warren Johnson thinks the Plan Commission is wasting their time and doesn't think anyone would bring a CAFO in the town. Amy Middleton said she doesn't just want wording to be put in the Comprehensive Plan and then take no other action on it. Warren Johnson and Tom Magnafici agreed that when the subject comes to the town board, if you don't own property in the town you shouldn't have a say. After numerous comments, Chairman Schmidt read a note from Plan Commission member Jim Berg saying that farming is already heavily regulated and we must continue to support farming in order to produce the healthiest food for our country.

Carolyn Guenther Lot Division, Located in Government Lot 1 of Sec 3/t33/R18W, Town of Osceola

Surveyor Edwin Flanum has created a certified survey map for parcel number 042-00049-0000 that is located in Government Lot 1 of Sec 3/T33N/R18W, near Poplar Lake on the northern end of the Town. Carolyn Guenther is proposing to lot off 9.81 of the current 14.99 acres. The remainder of the lot has a large red building that was constructed in 2015 and permitted as a home.

Bob Wright said he has concerns with the property that has a history of misrepresentation. He thinks the Plan Commission needs to educate themselves better on the property and the owners

need to come forward and say what they are going to do. He was not willing to take action on the lot division. Kim Hoverman would also like more information. According to Ed Flanum, the two lots meet all criteria. Amy Middleton said she is not opposed to the lot division but it makes her concerned and would hate to get burned.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY WRIGHT/HOVERMAN TO TABLE THE LOT DIVISION UNTIL WE GET MORE INFORMATION FROM THE LANDOWNER ON THEIR INTENTIONS FOR BOTH LOTS. ROLL CALL VOTE; BRAML YES, MIDDLETON YES, WRIGHT YES, HOVERMAN YES, SCHMIDT NO. MOTION CARRIED 4 – 1.

Update Comprehensive Plan

Tony Havranek had to leave the meeting early and was not able to lead the discussion regarding updates to the Comprehensive Plan. Updates will be discussed at the August meeting.

Chairman Report

The Town Board will discuss if a section of the picnic area at Sand Lake should be allowed to be reserved for events.

Commission Members Comments

Kim Hoverman reported on safety issues at Sand Lake boat landing.

Bob Wright reported that a resident keeps their garbage can on the side of the road at Horse Lake.

Subsequent Month's Agenda Discussion

The next regular monthly Plan Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Items

Update Comp Plan

Lot Division

ADJOURNMENT: MOVED, SECONDED BY WRIGHT/BRAML TO ADJOURN THE JULY 16, 2019 PLAN COMMISSION MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Being no further business to come before the Plan Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

APPROVED 8/20/19

Lorraine Rugroden, Clerk-Treasurer