Town of Oakland Plan Commission Meeting Monday, June 9, 2025

Members Present: Chairman Brian Conley, Mary Brill, Sandee Pease, Stanley Dzikonski, and Sandy Waletzko.

Interested Citizens: Tom and Suzanne Riedel.

Called to order at 2:30 pm by BC. The meeting was posted and a quorum was present making the meeting legal. Minutes of meeting on April 7, 2025 were reviewed. Motion to accept minutes by MB, seconded by SP and passed on a voice vote.

Correspondence: MB had sent information to members for discussion in regards to Wake Enhancement Ordinance. BC reported he was contacted by town supervisor Dana Dolsen asking the plan commission to make changes to the town's Dog Ordinance. This was prompted by an incident of a dog attack against a leashed dog on a town road that was reported to the sheriff's department.

Old Business - Dog Ordinance: Commission members discussed changes to the dog ordinance. The town does not have a humane officer so the town board designates someone responsible for handling strays. The duties of the town chairperson and clerk for dog control matters are outlined in ch. 170 and 174 of Wis. Stats. The town works with Douglas County and the designated animal shelter. MB suggested the title of "Dog Ordinance" be changed to "Dog Control Ordinance". She wondered if we needed to have a noise ordinance to reinforce Section VI - Restrictions on Dogs. Members agreed the section adequately outlined unacceptable dog behavior and a noise ordinance would not be pursued at this time. The multiple dog license option was reviewed. The description of the option would be moved to the dog license application form and taken out of the ordinance. This would be included in the town's policy manual where dog license fees are listed. Motion to recommend the town board adopt revisions to the Dog Control Ordinance made by MB, seconded by SD and passed on a voice vote.

Old Business: MB sent information to all members about a lawsuit filed against Town of Scott in Burnett County against their Wake Enhancement Ordinance. The township looks to receive pro bono legal assistance from Last Wilderness Alliance and town's insurer. Since our town recently adopted such an ordinance, members considered how to be proactive on the matter. BC will contact town's insurance company to see if legal assistance would be provided if our town were sued. Tom Riedel spoke on the matter. He stated a key issue is that a public hearing on the ordinance must be held. Town of Oakland did have a public hearing before adoption of our ordinance. Tom also had information on what Town of Drummond put in their ordinance for Lake Owen. Their ordinance required written proof that any wake boat operated in other lakes must be properly decontaminated which required boats have ballasts sterilized. The Town of Summit was given a copy of Oakland's ordinance. They have yet to adopt their own ordinance. Tom said he would be meeting soon with the Summit Town Board on the issue. At present 53 townships and 250 lakes are covered with wake ordinances. Commission members will monitor the issue.

SP updated members on the Utility Ordinance revisions she has been preparing. MB said she had a couple suggestions on the ordinance as well. They will forward their ideas to the members so the final draft can be completed at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting for the plan commission set for July 7, at 2:30 pm.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by SP, seconded by SD, and passed on a voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Recorded by SW