

Town of Oakland
Plan Commission meeting
Monday, December 11, 2023

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

Visitors: Tom Riedel and Judy Peterson from Amnicon Dowling Lake Management District and Dan Corbin, Town of Summit Clerk.

Called to order at 2:30 p.m. by BC. The meeting was posted and a quorum was present making the meeting legal. Minutes of meeting on November 13, 2023, were reviewed. Motion to accept minutes by SP, seconded by MB, and passed on a voice vote.

Correspondence: BC noted that he had forwarded to the commission members all the correspondence he had received which was on the issue of wake-enhancement boating. SW spoke to email on the subject she had received from the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area. Their group was sending out notice of two bills before the Wisconsin Legislature - Bill AB656/SB680 and Bill LRB 5069/1. They outlined why they were supporting Bill LRB 5069/1 and asked that legislators be contacted, by December 22, to support that bill. Judy Peterson and Tom Riedel had also received similar information and voiced support of that bill. Tom was concerned that neither bill had lake depth restrictions and would want that included in any bill. MB urged the commission to move forward with our own ordinance to established restrictions on artificial wake-enhancement boating for Lyman Lake and Dowling Lake. She said that on the required DNR condition report the lake depth would be addressed. BC raised the question as to whether we could keep local jurisdiction or would laws passed by the state supersede anything we would do. Dan Corbin felt the state would have legal precedent. The one bill does state that local governments would be able to pass local ordinances, but whether that would give local governments the authority to do so is not clear.

Old Business-Review Ordinances: BC asked if anyone had any town ordinance they wanted reviewed. There were none, but the item would continue to be placed on the agenda.

Discussion on Wake Enhancement Ordinance: MB had provided members with draft of Wake Enhancement Ordinance and the associated DNR Condition Report. In preparing the draft she used the DNR publication: A Guideline for Creating Local Boating Ordinances and Placing Waterway Markers in Wisconsin Waters. She contacted Madeleine Johansen of the DNR for information and DNR requirements. Johansen had said pictures of damages should be included in condition report. BC asked if anyone had any pictures and pointed out the ordinance was being drafted following the Town of Rhine's ordinance and condition report already approved by the DNR. SP pointed out parts of the drafts that she felt needed changes and that it should be pro-active. MB will focus on the ordinance first and work to get it done as soon as possible. Members discussed whether a public hearing on the ordinance was needed, even if not required. BC expressed need for hearing so that residents would not think it was a no-wake ordinance. Dan felt that a hearing would be good for the Town of Summit residents on Amnicon Lake. Tom and Judy have a mailing list for residents on Dowling and Amnicon Lakes. When ordinance draft is ready, a public hearing for both Oakland and Summit will be scheduled. SW proposed that we recommend the town board support Bill LRB 5069/1. Motion by SP, seconded by SD, that we recommend the town board send letters of support for Bill LRB 5069/1 with request that the bill include a minimum lake depth requirement. Motion carried on a voice vote. Judy Peterson said she would put together a support letter that could be presented to the town board at their meeting the next day - December 12. BC will provide the letter to the town board as part of the plan commission's monthly report.

Lyman Lake Access/Parr Road Updates: BC reported that a response letter, dated November 18, was sent to the attorney for Albert and Barbara Miller on the ownership question of the access at end of Parr Road at Lyman Lake. He said that the attorney had not responded as of yet. Some discussion on the Quit Claim Deed recently filed and MB suggested the town assessor may provide some clarification on the matter. BC voiced his continued belief that the land is town property as maintenance has been done on the road over the years. The matter was tabled until the town received the response from the Miller's attorney.

Website Input and Updates: BC said he had added a DNR link on Lake Data/Maps to the land use website. It could be accessed under the "More" tab and that any updates on the link would be done automatically by the DNR. Members viewed the link and agreed it was very informational. SW suggested that BC put together a presentation for the town's annual meeting to highlight what valuable information is on the website.

Next Plan Meeting: The next commission meeting was set for January 8, 2024 at 2:30 pm.

Adjournment: to adjourn made by SW, seconded by MB, and passed on voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Recorded by SW