

Town of Oakland
Plan Commission meeting
Monday, April 10, 2023

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

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 February 13, 2023 were reviewed. Motion to accept minutes by MB, seconded by SP, and passed on a voice vote.

Correspondence: Information received on grant opportunities for the town.

Ordinance for town owned lake accesses: Members continued working on the issue of drafting an ordinance to cover public use of lake accesses. SP prepared a draft for members to review. MB presented a list of her concerns and options for consideration. Discussion started on how to classify an access according to state laws as regulations vary depending on classification. BC noted that the boat landing on Dowling Lake is a Class B access. SP had been researching Class C access regulations and SD provided information under DNR laws covering Class C accesses. Members made suggestions as to what should be covered on the ordinance language for Class C regulations. The use of signs at access points still not decided. BC suggested a simple number sign at each access be used with a sign describing access regulations posted at the boat landing. Enforcement of an ordinance is an area of concern - how to enforce and by whom. MB contacted the county sheriff about enforcing the ordinance. He indicated the town would need a contract with the sheriff's department but that they would not do any at this time because of staffing issues. SW asked about town's general authority to punish violators on any ordinance and how to prosecute without any town policing designation. SP will continue work on ordinance draft and members will do more research on the matter.

Municipal Emergency Operation Plan: BC reported on the extensive work he had been doing to update the town's Emergency Management Plan dated 2008. He had asked the Oakland Fire Department to review the document. Stacy Fornengo stepped in for the Fire Chief and provided input. BC reviewed changes made on the chain of command and the elimination of the section about filling private swimming pools. Some other language changes made like using generic term "ambulance" instead of listing the ambulance company. He still needed clarification on the Length of Service Awards. SD thought there were changes made but not sure how. BC will followup on that. Some discussion on current regulations covering first responders. Question raised on what first responders could do concerning administering any medications, like Narcan for an overdose. SD noted that first responders are limited in the assistance they can provide. Once paged out they no longer have good samaritan legal protections. BC noted that the plan commission's website has the current emergency plan that members can review if they wish.

Parr Road and Plat: With the work on the town lake access ordinance, the question was raised about the status of the town access off the Parr Road at Lyman Lake (Renoufs Addition). The area on the plat listed as "town road" was never adopted or developed by the town. BC sent members the information and town documents on the matter. SW pointed out that state statute 82.19 on discontinuance of an unrecorded highway does not apply if area is a lake access. Barb Miller as property owner in the plat had attended the town board meeting March 4 and raised questions on designating the area as a town access. BC stated there is currently a sign at the

site put up by owners saying the area was private. He believed area to be access for the public unless property owners in area can prove otherwise. MB called an attorney and asked if she could get a preliminary review on the issue without charge. Commission members said she could pursue free legal information as a concerned citizen. The matter will be presented to the town board for further discussion.

Douglas County Zoning Meeting: MB reported on a meeting she attended on zoning laws and procedures. Realtors and contractors were invited to attend to become familiar with current rules as the information being given out to the public by them is not always accurate.

Property landscape proposal by Steve and Anita Olson: The Olsons on Dowling Lake had sent plans to the commission that they had prepared for their property by Prairie Restorations. The plan was discussed at the commission meeting on December 12, 2022 and members felt the plan was incomplete. Members recommended that the Olsons be notified to first submit plan to the DNR and Zoning for review. Since no additional communications has been sent to the plan commission concerning the restoration, the matter was tabled until further information is available and the spring thaw is over.

Website updates and committee input: BC asked members to let him know if anyone has suggestions for additions or changes to the website .

SW reported on a VRBO rental at Lyman that was stopped by the sheriff's office. She suggested that at the next meeting the commission again discuss the topic of Short Term Rentals.

SP mentioned again that we need to have on record an ordinance establishing the town plan commission. BC believed that was adopted when the plan commission was established in 2010 and that it may be in the Town of Oakland Commission Handbook. The issue will be addressed at the next commission meeting. BC said that the commission members serve for three years. He suggested that the community should be informed about the commission to see if anyone might be interested in serving.

Next plan meeting: Meeting for May is scheduled for May 8, at 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by MB, seconded by SP, and passed on a voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Recorded by SW