

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

Members Present: Chairman Brian Conley, Mary Brill, Sandee Pease, Sandy Waletzko and Stanley Dzikonski. Also present were Kim Nygaard from the Amnicon Dowling Lake Management District, and 3 other interested citizens.

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 June 12, 2023 were reviewed. Motion to accept minutes by MB , seconded by SP, and passed on a voice vote.

Correspondence: BC reported receiving correspondence from Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) concerning an ordinance to cover use of wake/surfing boats on Dowling Lake. also, the zoning office sent application from Cade and Beth Musch to rezone some of their land from F1 to A2. Both items had been placed on the meeting agenda.

Ordinance to cover Wake Boats: Kim Nygaard presented position of the Amnicon Dowling Lake Management District concerning potential use of wake/surfing boats on Dowling Lake and the concerns about their use on such a small lake. She noted that it would not be to create a no-wake lake, but to control use of the larger boats to protect lake quality and shoreline issues. The district had a LEAPS grant through the DNR and they recommended the ordinance. Kim provided sample of a such an ordinance adopted for Bass Lake in Sawyer County. BC showed the WTA response stating that the lake district under Wis. Stat. 30.77(3) had the authority to adopt an ordinance with an authorizing resolution from the township. The possible adoption of a resolution will be presented to the town board. Enforcement of such an ordinance was discussed. BC felt the DNR would be in charge as they regulate lakes. MB related discussion with Douglas County Sheriff as to their departments position to not be involved with ordinance enforcements in townships. She will follow-up with the Sheriff and DNR to get further clarifications. The issue was tabled until next meeting.

Kim also addressed the commission on beaver problems at the boat landing culvert. She said a resident had offered to bring in a backhoe to help clear out the logs and debris from the beavers. BC said that the corduroy log area is not stable and that the town had problems trying to remove debris with the backhoe. The town's road crew will look into the matter.

Zone Change application from Cade and Beth Musch: Cade Musch was in attendance to explain the need to get a zoning district change from F1 to A2 in order to expand their deer farm. He indicated the type of fencing that would be used in accordance with state regulations and where the fencing would go. He said they were aiming for sustainability with 15 to 20 bucks and to not introduce new animals from the outside. MB spoke to the long history of trying to deal with deer farms and the issue of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Wisconsin and that she had more information she could bring to add to the discussion. She and another neighbor, Karen Wilber, expressed their concerns and felt that the expansion would hurt their property value. BC said he had one other area neighbor call to say she was not in favor of the expansion. As to the spread of CWD, Musch said there is research now to identify the genetics of deer that may be resistant to CWD. He thought they could be involved in the research and that they already do extensive testing on their herd. SW asked how long their farm had been in operation. Musch responded that they have been around for 5 years and have had no sick animals. SD talked about the deer farm in Lakeside township which has been in operation for some time with no CWD cases. BC questioned if the matter should be postponed. MB moved to have the matter postponed but motion failed to get a second. SD made a motion to recommend the town board approve the zone district change from F1 to A2. SP seconded the motion and it passed by a majority vote.

Status on Ordinances: MB reported she is working on a form to be used by the plan commission when making variance decisions. The form would provide as a reminder and guidance on standards to apply when making variance decisions. SP inquired about the Plan Commission Ordinance that was written to replace the original ordinance established to create the town's plan commission which could not be located. BC noted that ordinance along with the lake access ordinance were on the agenda for the town meeting the next day. - Tuesday, July 11.

Plan Commission website: BC noted that the revised Municipal Emergency Operation Plan was now on the website.

Next Plan Meeting: The August plan commission meeting was set for August 7, at 2:30 pm.

Adjournment: Motion from MB, seconded by SP, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Recorded by SW