

**Town of La Pointe Planning and Zoning
Town Plan Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, February 5th, 2020

4:30 PM

La Pointe Town Hall

Members Present: Suellen Soucek, Chair; Mike Starck, Vice Chair; Paul Wilharm and Jim Peters (by phone)

Members Absent: Samantha Dobson

Staff: Ric Gillman ZA

Public Present: John Soucek

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Soucek calls the meeting to order @ 4:30PM. Roll call reflects the members in attendance identified above.

H. Public Comment – ~~none~~ Chair Soucek pays homage to Carey Baxter and offers condolences to his family. She also acknowledges the ZA for his recent work on archives in the Town Hall basement.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

a. Town Plan Commission Regular Monthly Meeting January 2nd, 2020

Starck motions to approve as submitted, Wilharm seconds, 5 ayes motion carries.

IV. Zoning Administrators Report and update

Presently there are no pending applications for land use permits. This has allowed the ZA to begin some reorganization of archived files in the basement of the Town Hall. In this discussion Starck and Wilharm asked about the Cell Tower. Specifically, when the technician was on sight to address the “noise” concern. While the ZA had discussions with the technician he is not aware of results of this endeavor. The technician did however state he would be inspecting the tower and source of the “noise”. The reason this was brought up at this time is due to some concerns expressed related to recent (approx. 3month) deterioration of cell reception by Verizon customers. Wilharm wonders if the tech turned the power down to address the “noise”. The ZA will contact the technician for American Tower and ask for an update on his work and discuss any possibility of a reduction in coverage.

V. New Business

a. Fire Numbers update

The ZA will be having a conference call and subsequent meeting with Ashland County Emergency Services. After which he will coordinate a meeting between Ashland County Emergency Services and the Town Board and Town Plan Commission.

b. Zoning year-end report.

Reviewed.

c. Drafting of letter to the community seeking input and feedback regarding discussions related to a “Junk” ordinance.

A draft of a letter (article) regarding public input on “junk” was discussed and modified. This will be reviewed by the TPC at the next meeting prior to submittal. **The update draft is the final page of these Minutes.**

d. Update on Middle Road Literary Arts Society, Inc 274 Middle Rd Parcel #014-00438-0400

None, the ZA will write a letter asking owner for and update.

VI. Future Agenda Items

a. Final draft of a letter for the Gazette regarding public input on “Junk”

Routing: Clerk (1); Dorgene (1); Email Staff (5); File (1); TB (5)

- b. Update on Middle Road Literary Arts Society, Inc.
- c. Fire Numbers
- d. Cell Tower correspondence re: Noise and Coverage

VII. Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday March 4th, @ 4:30

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Soucek adjourns @ 5:01PM

*Amendments indicated by ~~Strike~~ and **Bold Italics** entered 2/12/20. Respectfully resubmitted by Ric Gillman, ZA on 2/12/20.*

For possible publication in the Gazette (March)

The Town Plan Commission (TPC) is seeking input and feedback regarding the issue of “Junk”. As most are aware this became a contentious issue in 2008 leading to the Town Board tabling any related ordinance and relying on State statutes and County Ordinance. We are hoping to address this, because the Zoning Department, as well some Town Plan Commissioners have fielded questions regarding a junk ordinance.

State statutes related to “Junk” and/or non-registered inoperable vehicles are extensive and I refer you to Wisconsin State statutes:

- 84.31 Regulation of Junk yards
- 175.25 Storage of junked automobiles
- 254.595 Property violating codes or Health orders
- 299.91 Hearing procedure review

These can be found through the search icon at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/prefaces/toc>

The Town Plan Commission is not approaching this issue with any draft ordinance or plan of action other than having the community have a voice in what people feel is in the best interest of property rights and Madeline Island. The Town Plan Commission welcomes all input and your concerns can be voiced during public comment at any of the scheduled meetings, in writing attention to: TPC Zoning and Planning or via emails to the Zoning Department zoning@townoflapointewi.gov.

Again, while this is historically a divisive issue the TPC has no plan or draft being considered other than the thoughtful input from you.

This will be addressed as an agenda item on ___TBD_____, 2020 and again on ___TBD_____, 2020 following the scheduled Regular Monthly Meetings where public comment and input will be encouraged and extended.

Suellen Soucek, Chair
Town of La Pointe
Town Plan Commission

Approved with correction of spelling Wilharm on 3-11-20 by Ric Gillman