

# **Planning & Zoning Administrator Town of La Pointe, Wisconsin January 2026 Report**

January continued to be a busy month. Described in more detail below, but in short, I was able to accomplish the following:

- Continued an in-depth review of the Public Comments received on the Zoning Ordinance Re-Write. The DRAFT document was shared with TPC for review on December 30<sup>th</sup> and was discussed at three TPC meetings in January (January 7<sup>th</sup> Regular TPC Meeting and January 21<sup>st</sup> and January 28<sup>th</sup> Special TPC Meetings). As of the end of January, 62 of the 131-page document has been reviewed by TPC.
- Issued the Town's response to two complaints received (challenge of a variance issued and a claim that a fence was in the Right-of-Way). I worked with the complainant and the property owners and reviewed the files on the issues at hand. After careful consideration and coordination within the Town, including with the TPC, I issued our determination letters. Since issuing these determinations, I have continued to coordinate with those involved as a final resolution is worked through.
- Conducted 2 site visits in support of permit requests or future permit requests; issued 1 land use permits during the month, and prepared 2 data packages for TPC discussion at the February Regular TPC meeting.
- Continued Identification & Preparation of Grant applications for the Town of La Pointe to pursue. Worked with Emergency Services, Police and the Fire Department and submitted a grant application for \$40k for WISCOM Radios. I also started working with the Madeline Island Ferry Line on two BUILD Grant applications; one for repowering and super structure work (approximately \$1.5M) on the Island Queen and a second planning grant (approximately \$100k) to map out the future for MIFL as the fleet continues to age. These applications will be submitted in mid-February.

## **Zoning Ordinance Re-Write**

- During January, the Town Plan Commission Working Group continued an in-depth review of all of the Public Comments received. The TPC Working Group continued to meet almost every Tuesday to review and address the comments received focusing on the larger issues identified during the Question & Answer sessions. During January, further discussion continued on the proposed boundaries of the mixed-use areas and identifying the ultimate number of camper type units that can be on each property; two major categories of public input on the Draft Zoning Ordinance Re-Write. The revised DRAFT Zoning Ordinance (with public comments addressed) is on the Agenda to continue to be discussed at the next TPC Meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

## January 2026 Permit Information/Status

DATE	SANITARY PERMIT	COUNTY PERMIT #	LAND USE PERMIT #	NAME OF PROPERTY OWNER	FIRE #	STREET NAME	Parcel number 014	PROJECT TYPE
1/8/2026				Sam & Jake Dobson	772	Brian's Rd	00207-0600	Change of Use
1/12/2026			2026-01	Evan Erickson		861 Whitefish St		Demolition
1/26/2026				Thomas Penn	2194	North Shore Rd.	00066-0400	Hillside Lift

During the month of January, one land use permit was issued and review started on two to be considered for approval in February:

- 1) 861 Whitefish Street (issued on January 19<sup>th</sup>)

As noted above, one permit was issued in January 2026. In January 2024, two Town of La Pointe permits were issued (driveway and dwelling) and in January 2025, one Town of La Pointe permit (accessory structure) was issued.

### Site Visits

Site visits are critical to our understanding of the proposed projects submitted by property owners and help facilitate our review of land use permit applications. These visits also allow me to better understand the property owner's goals and to be able to share information as I see it. Providing on-going good customer service is important to me.

During January, I participated in 2 site visits (listed below):

- January 2<sup>nd</sup> – 299 Equaysayway Lane
- January 30<sup>th</sup> – 772 Brian's Road

### Grant Opportunities

During the month, I continued working with the Town Department Heads to start identifying, and then start preparing, grant applications that would benefit, if selected, the Town of La Pointe. I have a draft of a tracking tool that includes the name of the grant, the purpose, the amount sought, the Town's match (if selected), the due date and the changes (high, medium, low) of the Town of La Pointe being selected.

In January, I worked with Emergency Medical Services, the Fire Department and Police Department on assembling the materials for submitting a competitive application for advanced communication radios. The application was submitted on January 14<sup>th</sup>. While it appears that the funding for this program this year is for other parts of the State, and our chances are low, our submittal this year prepares us for the next round of funding (2027) and shows that the need exists today.

Furthermore, I started working with the Madeline Island Ferry Line on preparing materials for the FY26 BUILD Grant applications. We are submitting both a capital and planning grant request in February competing to receive funding to repower and perform super structure work on the Island Queen and undertake a planning study that evaluates and identifies the long-term plan for the ferry line.

Finally, I will continue to coordinate with the Department Heads and will be coordinating with them regularly in an attempt to identify all opportunities that exist.

### **Processing Complaints**

Overall, in total 5 potential zoning complaints have been received by the Zoning Office. During January, at the Regular Monthly TPC meeting, I briefed the members with the high-level details of the complaints received and their status.

I issued two determination letters in January. The building setback variance complaint determination letter was issued on January 9<sup>th</sup> and the Fence in the Right-of-Way determination letter was issued on January 21<sup>st</sup>. There has been a follow-up with the complainant on the building setback variance letter and with the property owner on the fence in the Right-of-Way letter. Both are being worked. In addition, in the “Supporting the Short-Term Rental Administrator” section below, additional details are provided on the status of a complaint regarding events occurring at a property are provided.

### **Supporting the Short-Term Rental Administrator**

The Short-Term Rental Administrator (STRA) and I continue to coordinate on a regular basis. During December, we mailed (certified return receipt on December 4<sup>th</sup>) a corrective action letter to the property owner regarding the written complaint that we received in August as well as additional new complaints, all regarding events occurring at the same property address. The property owner received the letter on December 11<sup>th</sup> and called the Zoning Administrator (ZA). The property owner requested copies of the 2024 and 2025 rental permits (which were provided via email on December 18<sup>th</sup>). On January 13<sup>th</sup> and January 29<sup>th</sup> I reached out to the property owner to attempt to schedule a meeting. Efforts to reach the property owner will continue.

During January, our current total of short-term rentals are 139 (113 short term and 26 commercial). As property owners have until January 31<sup>st</sup> to pay their Room Accommodation Taxes, we don't have final numbers yet for 2025. Final numbers will be available in February and will be included in the Month of February update. That being said, we believe that the number of property owners that still owe are less than 10 in total.