

Planning, Zoning and Grants Administrator Town of La Pointe, Wisconsin March 2026 Report

March was a busy month as property owners started to coordinate with the Town in earnest to start submitting permit applications to be approved by the Town Plan Commission in early April.

Described in more detail below, but in short, I was able to accomplish the following:

- Zoning Ordinance - Continued the in-depth review of the Public Comments received on the Zoning Ordinance Re-Write. The TPC Members focused on one final review of the February 19th draft. In March, Sections 1 through 6 were reviewed during the TPC Meeting and materials for Sections 7 through 16 were distributed for review at the April 1st TPC Meeting.
- Permits - The Zoning World of permitting started to awaken. During the month of March, I worked with five sets of property owners preparing information to review their permit applications at the next TPC meeting in April. Two are for primary dwellings, one is for the La Pointe School modernization, one for a new garage and addition to their dwelling and one to reconfigure their lot with their neighbor.
- Grants - While not part of the TPC efforts, I was able to focus on several grant opportunities during the Month. These included submitting a Letter of Interest (LOI) for the Community Opportunity Fund Transformation 2026 Boreal Waters Community Foundation for the Expansion of the Madeline Island Public Library/Youth Summer Recreation Program, exploring the T-Mobile Hometown Grant program for our parks, modernizing our skatepark through the Skatepark Project, submitting a Statement of Intentions for the 2026-2027 Harbor Assistance Program, and answering questions on the WISCOM Grant Application submitted in January.

Zoning Ordinance Re-Write

- During March, the Town Plan Commission Working Group continued an in-depth review of all Public comments that were received and any other final comments/changes to be made before scheduling a final public hearing. The TPC reviewed Sections 1 through 6 during the March 4th meeting page by page and a final set of comments for Sections 7 through 16 was created and distributed for TPC discussion on April 1st. The DRAFT Final Zoning Ordinance (with public comments addressed) is on the Agenda to be reviewed at the next TPC Meeting on April 1st. Also, during the April 1st TPC meeting, the Team will discuss the next steps including scheduling a Public Hearing and the notification requirements. Legal and Town Board review will also have to be scheduled.

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March 2026 Permit Information/Status

| DATE | SANITARY PERMIT | COUNTY PERMIT | LAND USE PERMIT | NAME OF PROPERTY OWNER | FIRE # | STREET NAME | Parcel number | PROJECT TYPE |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 2/17/2026 | | NA | NA | Haecker/Cellon | | 893 & 895 Nebraska Rd. | 00412-0400 | CSM |
| 2/19/2026 | | NA | NA | Philip Myers | | 3752 Big Bay Rd. | 00020-0100 | CSM |
| 2/24/2026 | | | | Joe Seiler | | 442 Bojo Lane | 00206-2920 | Addition/Garage |
| 3/2/2026 | | | | Robert & Maureen Rickman | | 2912 Big Bay Rd. | 00060-230 | Dwelling |
| 3/24/2026 | | | | La Pointe School | | 868 Whitefish St | 00470-0200 | Modernization |

During the month of March, three permit requests for construction projects were submitted for review and approval at the April TPC Meeting:

- 1) 2912 Big Bay Road – Rob/Maureen Rickman – Primary Dwelling
- 2) 442 Bojo Lane – Joe/Frances Seiler – Accessory Structure/Dwelling Addition (for May)
- 3) 868 Whitefish St – Bayfield School District – La Pointe School Modernization Program

In addition, on March 4th we were able to recommend to the Town Board for approval, two Certified Survey Maps (CSMs). During the March 10th Town Board Meeting, both were approved and sent back to the surveyor the next day.

Furthermore, during the month I have been working with property owners answering their questions as they relate to their upcoming permit applications. These projects include working with property owners at the following locations:

- 1) 351 Fort Road – Potential Sauna and modifications to the existing primary dwelling.
- 2) 1451 Middle Road – Reconfiguring two existing lots. (Future Certified Survey Map)
- 3) 3350 Stockton Rd – Primary Dwelling

Looking back at 2024 and 2025, in March we issued 6 permits in 2024 and 0 permits in 2025. While technically meeting on April 1st, we will be issuing 4 permits (2 primary dwellings, 1 accessory structure, and a permit for the modernization of La Pointe School.

Supporting the Short-Term Rental Administrator

The Short-Term Rental Administrator (STRA) and I continue to coordinate on all things short-term rental. Since December, we have been working with a property owner regarding a series of written complaints that we received regarding events in August and September. The property owner received the Town's corrective action letter on December 11th. After repeated attempts to contact the property owner, we had a meeting on March 10th. The Short-Term Rental Administrator, the Town Building Inspector, the Town Administrator and I participated in the meeting. The meeting lasted approximately 75 minutes, and the property owner had 4 IOU's to provide to the Town over the next 6 weeks or so. Information continues to arrive from the property owner, and we are developing a plan to finalize our response.

In response to the STRA's letter in February, residents are starting to submit their rental permit applications for 2026. These are being reviewed in the order in which they arrive. Through the end of March, approximately 6 have been issued ahead of the June deadline.

Training/Webinars Attended

During the month of March, I also participated in a DNR training webinar on Vapor Intrusion. Jennifer Borski presented on the remediation and redevelopment Vapor Intrusion Guidance regarding contaminated sites under Wisconsin Statute and Administrative Code. While we do not have many sites on the Island, this was good information for the sites that do exist.

I also participated in two Great Lakes Islands Alliance zoom meetings on March 4th and March 18th. The webinar on March 4th covered topics including islander community news, questions, opportunities and interesting observations from participants. It was a way for communities to share some of their triumphs and challenges over the winter. The webinar on March 18th included Island Studies presentations by two master's level students from University of Prince Edward Island. They presented some of the things happening on Amherst Island which grows from 400 winter residents to approximately 600 residents during the summer. It was interesting to hear how they have successfully installed a wind farm on the Island.

Grant Opportunities

March continued to be a busy grant month. On March 9th, the Town of La Pointe submitted a Letter of Interest (LOI) for the Community Opportunity Fund Transformation 2026 Boreal Waters Community Foundation for the Expansion of the Madeline Island Public Library/Youth Summer Recreation Program. Valuable information was provided to me by Lauren Schuppe and Samantha Dobson that helped put our best foot forward. Unfortunately, we heard on March 30th that we were not being considered further.

During the middle of the month, we started to explore potential grants offered by the T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program. Grant applications are due by the end of each quarter of 2026 (March, June, September and December.) These grants are up to \$50,000, if selected.

In addition, we are exploring Skatepark Grants through the Skatepark Project. They empower community-led projects that create safe and inclusive public skateparks, skate spaces, and skate spots in underserved communities.

The last full week of March saw a follow-up from the grant reviewers on the Radio Interoperability grant application that we submitted in mid-January. They had questions regarding the functionality of the radios we have bids on and the costs associated with that functionality. We are in the process of reviewing the information and will reply before the April 15th deadline. We are still in the running!

Lastly, the Harbor Assistance Program offered by the WISDOT Railroads & Harbors required applicants to submit a three-year Harbor Statement of Intentions and a Resolution by the Harbor Commission (HC) by April 1st. I worked with MILF, LLC and the Town has a plan for the next three years to submit along with a Resolution from the HC. This makes us eligible to be considered for a grant. Formal applications are due on August 1st.