

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

April was another busy month as property owners are eager to start construction and have been submitting permits as well as asking a lot of zoning questions; which is a very good thing.

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 and Town Plan Commission (TPC) comments received on the Zoning Ordinance Re-Write. In April, the TPC Members completed a final draft in preparation for a final Public Hearing, Legal Review and then Town Board Review/Adoption. A Public Hearing notice was published in the Ashland Daily Press newspaper on April 30th for the Public Hearing to be conducted on May 20th at 5 pm. The final document, using track changes, was also posted on the Town's Website on April 30th. The notice was also posted at the Town Hall, Library and Post office on the same day. Finally, a hard copy was made available for review at Town Hall and the Library.
- Permits – Zoning permits started to be submitted in significant numbers the second half of the month. During the month of April, five applications from property owners were submitted, three of which were submitted the final week of April. My goal is always to accommodate the property owners as close as possible to the meeting date as to not delay any of their proposed efforts. This helps the property owners get projects started and economically benefits the contractors in that they are able to start as soon as possible. All permit applications that were submitted up to May 1st, are on the Agenda for TPC approval on May 6th.
- Grants - While not part of the TPC efforts, I was able to focus on several grant opportunities during April. While described in more detail below, these efforts included submitting a Letter of Intent for the 2026-2027 Harbor Assistance Program, exploring eligibility for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Notice of Funding Opportunities published on April 6th, and updating our Radio Interoperability grant application originally submitted in January.

I also participated in the Passenger Vessel Association (PVA) Fly-In Day in Washington DC with Cal from MIFL, LLC. We met with a total of 6 Congressional Representatives and staffers from the Mid-West including Senator Baldwin and Representative Massie.

Zoning Ordinance Re-Write

- During April, the Town Plan Commission Working Group completed an in-depth review of all Public comments that were received and all other final comments/changes to be made before scheduling a Public Hearing to review the final draft. The TPC reviewed the revised final draft of the document from TPC meetings held on April 1st and April 15th. After those

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meetings, a notice for a Public Hearing was published in the Ashland Daily Press on April 30th. This notified the public that we are conducting a Public Hearing on the Final DRAFT of the Zoning Ordinance Re-Write on May 20th at 5 pm at Town of La Pointe Town Hall. In addition, the Final DRAFT document was posted on the Town's website. It was completed in track changes which allow the proposed modifications to be readily to easily identified since the original version in use since 2019. The Public Hearing notice was posted at the Library, at Town Hall and at the Post Office on April 30th. Hard copies of the document are available for review at Town Hall and at the Library. Any and all comments are welcome!

April 2026 Permit Information/Status

DATE	SANITARY PERMIT	COUNTY PERMIT	LAND USE PERMIT	NAME OF PROPERTY OWNER	FIRE #	STREET NAME	Parcel number	PROJECT TYPE
2/24/2026		9732	2026-06	Joe & Frances Seiler		442 Bojo Lane	00206-2920	Addition/Garage
3/2/2026		9731	2026-05	Robert & Maureen Rickman		2912 Big Bay Rd.	00060-230	Dwelling
3/24/2026		9730	2026-04	La Pointe School		868 Whitefish St	00470-0200	Modernization
3/31/2026		9733	2026-07	Tim Larson/Kathleen O'Donne		3350 Stockton Rd	00325-0320	Dwelling
4/17/2026		NA	2026-08	Shawn & Andoreen Grass		730 Miller Farm Rd	00180-0520	Land Disturbance
4/17/2026				Joe & Frances Seiler		442 Bojo Lane	00206-2920	CSM
4/22/2026				Lucille Stringer		935 Middle Rd	00179-0400	Addition/Deck
4/27/2026				Dave & Melissa Donkers		1812 North Shore Rd.	00068-0300	Accessory Structure
4/30/2026				Jill Eoloff & Tony Franklin		2284 Spirit Lane	00059-0100	Accessory Structure
5/1/2026				Dan Kegel		864 Main Street	00415-0000	Deck

During the month of April, six permit requests for projects were submitted for review and approval at the May TPC Meeting:

- 1) 442 Bojo Lane – Joseph & Frances Seiler – Certified Survey Map
- 2) 442 Bojo Lane – Joseph & Frances Seiler – Dwelling Addition
- 3) 935 Middle Road – Lucille Stringer – Dwelling Addition and Deck
- 4) 1812 North Shore Rd – David & Melissa Donkers – Bunk House
- 5) 2284 Spirit Lane – Jill Eoloff, Eric Eoloff, Tony Franklin – Site Clearing & Accessory Structure
- 6) 864 Main Street – Dan Kegel - Deck

In comparison, during April 2024 and 2025 a total of 7 permits were issued each year. With 6 permit applications being considered in April 2026, we are on track with the previous years in terms of total number.

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 for the following locations:

- 1) 933 Nebraska Row – Jean Mescher – 6th Street Vacation
- 2) 978 Middle Road – Craftivity Inc – 168 Sq Ft Storage Building
- 3) 580 Mondamin Trail – Robert Hartzell – Boat/Storage Yard Concept
- 4) Gitche Gumees Expandable Condominium – Robert Hartzell – Proposed Camping Area.

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. While it has been a lengthy and complicated process, we are nearing the end of the review and will be meeting with the property owner with our findings in May.

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 April, 5 commercial permits and 6 daily permits have been issued ahead of the June deadline.

The STRA has also been working directly with VRBO for Out of Compliance Renters and with Pam in Ashland County sharing information about new State Regulations. This work is strengthening the work that is being done by the Town to ensure continued smooth operations.

Grant Opportunities

April continued to be a busy grant month. We continue to explore potential grants offered by the T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program. Grant applications are due by the end of each quarter of 2026 (June, September and December.) These grants are up to \$50,000, if selected.

These efforts included submitting a Statement of Intentions for the 2026-2027 Harbor Assistance Program on April 1st, and responding to the State of Wisconsin on the WISCOM Grant Application submitted in January. We modified the Town Resolution to accommodate a slight overrun in the Town's Match which kept us in the running. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published a Notice of Funding Opportunity on April 6th. That included grant opportunities for three programs including Ferry Vessel Funding for Urban Areas (we do not qualify for this program), Ferry Vessel Funding for Rural Areas (we do not qualify for this program because the route minimum is 15 miles, we are at 2.5 miles), and Electric/Low-Emission Vessel Funding. After coordinating internally, with Office of Program Management of FTA, and with the State of Wisconsin, it was determined that we would not be submitting a grant application this year.

I traveled to and participated in the Passenger Vessel Association (PVA) Fly-In Day in Washington DC with Cal from MIFL, LLC. We met with Congressional Representatives and staffers from the Mid-West including Senator Baldwin and Representative Massie. We also met with Staffers from Senator Durbin's Office (IL), Senator Duckworth's Office (IL) and Representative Quigley's Office (IL). This was a great annual opportunity to get the Island's message and needs out to our elected officials who may be able to help with federal funding in the upcoming budget cycles.

Finally, 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.