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TOWN OF CABLE PLAN COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 4, 2020

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Town of Cable Plan Commission was called to order by Chairperson Thurn at 5:30 pm on August 4, 2020 in the main assembly room of the Cable Community Center.

Present: Chairperson Susan Thurn, Commissioners Kristine Lendved, Monte Lewis, Tony Merrill, Shelly Wilson, Andy Schwartz, Kathy Zuelsdorff, Secretary Jeannie Dixon and members of the public.

2. Chairperson's Remarks

Chairperson Thurn thanked Andy Schwartz for being willing to serve on the Plan Commission and announced that he would be taking over as Chairperson starting with the September meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

There being no changes to the agenda, Thurn made a motion to approve as presented which was seconded by Lewis and carried.

4. Approval of Minutes – July 7, 2020

Upon review there were no edits to the minutes of the last meeting, therefore Merrill made a motion to approve. Motion seconded by Wilson and carried.

5. Public Input – There was no public input.

6. Land Use

- **Deer Feeding Ordinance and Management Plan in Section 18** – As an update, Commissioner Merrill reported that the Town Board rejected the Plan Commission's motion made at last month's meeting which tabled the draft ordinance and recommended that the Town Board take actions as identified at the Town Board meeting of March 21, 2019. Discussion therefore ensued as to how to further approach the matter. Schwartz stated that the notion of enacting an ordinance that cannot be enforced is problematic. Section 18 has quite a few large parcels of land wherein the law would not be adhered to and how do you enforce that? An education effort takes time and resources to put in place and then follow up on.

A map that Tom Frels put together of where deer are feeding and traveling was available for members to review. After further discussion, Schwartz proposed that as a first step we could try a targeted educational approach. A packet of previously gathered materials could be assembled for the smaller group of homeowners in Section 18 who feed the deer to see if compliance could be obtained for the health of the deer herd and the community in general. Zuelsdorff suggested a person could be designated who could then follow up with individuals to find out if the educational materials they received helped, if progress was being made and/or if the ordinance needs to be instituted.

A motion was made by Merrill that we identify and contact property owners in Section 18 and its border properties who are feeding deer, provide educational packets and respectfully request that they not feed the deer from April until the end of the third week of September. Motion includes a follow up with homeowners to see if the information received impacted their behavior regarding deer feeding. This motion was seconded by Schwartz and was approved.

7. Cable Tomorrow/Comprehensive Plan Updates and Projects

- Connect Communities Update – Thurn gave update of recent CC activities including that the new “Live It” tote bags arrived and are for sale for \$2.00 around the area; the final walking map printing will be delayed until next year, Ron Bergin is working with the National Park Service to connect trail from the railroad grade across Parker road; and the Historical building designation is becoming a reality with a focus on the older business buildings in town. A suggested plaque that can be placed on Cable historical buildings was shared with members and the public present.
- Updates to Comprehensive Plan – Dixon provided summary of items that should be considered as Comprehensive Plan amendments, based on her research of past Plan Commission meeting minutes. Lendved, Zuelsdorff and Dixon agreed to work on the actual amendment language with a view to move toward a motion for next month's Town Board meeting.

8. Issues and Opportunities

- Chair Thurn made a public announcement of the referendum that will be on the November ballot regarding the appointment rather than election of the Town Clerk and Treasurer positions. She further explained that the positions have become so complex over the years that specific skills are required to perform the jobs correctly. The Plan Commission lends its support to this resolution and recommends its passage. In addition the Commission agrees with the effort to find a way to educate the electorate to understand the issue better.

9. Housing

- David Popelka was present to describe a new pilot project for the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) affordable workforce housing initiative. This is an experimental program targeted at rural communities. Popelka is the Cable representative to the Chequamegon Bay Housing group that has been very active to make application for a grant which was recently approved to conduct a housing survey. A survey of all Bayfield County and western border of Ashland County residents is in the final draft stage and will be sent out in the fall. Results should be back in January 2021.

WHEDA has set aside 10 million for this workforce housing initiative. A county has to be more than 25% rural in order to participate, which Bayfield County is. Three pilot communities will be chosen and guided through the process to get funding and planning in place. Cable, Namakagon and Grand View are listed with HUD as areas in extreme need of housing. Popelka recommends that Cable apply along with the rest of the Chequamegon Bay Housing group for this project funding. Clustering many communities together makes the project more attractive. It also would provide for tax

advantage financing and attract larger developers. Popelka feels Cable would score very high in this effort to receive the grant and therefore is requesting a letter of support from the Town of Cable that they support this workforce housing initiative. Bayfield County would be the prime applicant and the proposal has to go before the Bayfield County Executive Committee. The project application is due by August 31 so a letter of support is needed at the next Town Board meeting.

Following this discussion a motion was made by Schwartz that the Plan Commission support this project wholeheartedly and recommends that the Town of Cable also support this opportunity to make application to become a pilot area for the WHEDA rural affordable workforce housing initiative, and that we encourage the Town Board to take action in the form of a specific letter of support, using the Town Clerk as an important resource. The project meets our Land Use plan and the Town has conducted listening sessions which support the need for work force housing. This need is referenced on page 30 of the Comprehensive Plan, Housing Goals and Objectives section. The motion was seconded by Lendved and passed unopposed.

10. Intergovernmental Cooperation

- Lot sizes in Town of Cable and R-4 zoning within the Sanitary District boundaries – A motion was made by Merrill to table this agenda item until the next meeting. Motion seconded by Lewis and carried.

11. Other Issues

- Schwartz brought up for reconsideration a request from the public at the last meeting to post the draft version of the minutes more expeditiously, rather than waiting an entire month until the minutes are approved and posted. He suggested that we take a look at the rationale behind the current process and consider options to improve communications. Posting a summary of the meeting actions soon after the meeting is one option to consider.

11. Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Town of Cable Plan Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at the Cable Community Center.

12. Adjournment

- Chairperson Thurn adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeannie Dixon