

TOWN OF RED CEDAR
MINUTES - Planning Commission

The Planning Commission meeting was held at the Red Cedar Town Hall, E6591 627th Avenue, Menomonie, WI on Tuesday, **March 17, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.**

1. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER. Chairman, Leon Herrick, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Also present were Ron Robelia, Chad Haldeman, and Andy Gansberg. Susan Harrison was absent, as was alternate, John Govin.
2. MINUTES. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. *Motion by Andy Gansberg to approve the minutes; motion seconded by Ron Robelia. None opposed. MC*
3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS. None.
5. BUSINESS to consider and act on, including possible recommendations to the Town Board:
 - (a) Discussion with Neil Koch regarding incorporating groundwater protection into the Town's comprehensive plan, what types of industries should be in which areas of the township, which areas in the township are considered sensitive to groundwater contamination, and which industries are allowed in specific areas of the City of Menomonie. Neil indicated that the Town of Menomonie has added a lot of groundwater protection to their comprehensive plan update as it is being depleted. Owners of high capacity wells should monitor once per month. To help deter groundwater contamination, septage spreading should be stopped. Some states have banned it, and companies must take it to municipal waste facilities. In major subdivisions, central wastewater systems should be used and encouraged. Some viruses and all pharmaceuticals can pass through a septic system. Goals to work on in the comprehensive plan should include a general statement indicating that the town will work to improve the quality of groundwater, work on developing a groundwater protection plan so high-risk industries are not allowed in certain recharge areas in the township and how to handle residential and subdivision development. The Town of Menomonie requires 30% greenspace in its highest recharge area. The water table has already dropped in the eastern part of the State 300 to 500 feet. Some objectives to work on in the comprehensive plan are to determine if groundwater is being depleted, test a town well monthly and retain the information, and encourage use of a central wastewater system in subdivisions with inducements to developers. In the Land Use section, encourage growth that maintains adequate recharge to the aquifer and policies that work to improve the quality of groundwater. Develop groundwater protection overlay district ordinance and wellhead protection if needed, and look into protections against nitrates and nitrites. Questions followed. *No action taken.*
 - (b) Discuss procedures, requirements, and timeframe required to update the Town's Comprehensive Plan in 2015, and continue work on update of Comprehensive Plan. Leon is working on Transportation, and he will be getting in touch with the highway department. Cheryl will email the 5-year town road plan to him. Andy is working on Housing. He spoke to Bob Colson who gave him some good pointers, and both believe that certain statistics do not need to be updated. Chad is working on Utilities & Community Facilities, and everything remains basically the same. Ron is working on Intergovernmental, and nothing has changed. Cheryl is working on Agricultural, Natural & Cultural Resources, and she pulled comprehensive plans from the City of Menomonie and all surrounding townships to review and gather information and ideas. *No action taken.*
 - (c) Discuss and work on Resolution 2015-2 Establishing Public Participation Procedures for an Update to the Comprehensive Plan referred by the Town Board. Discussion had. *Motion by Andy Gansberg to recommend approval to the Town Board; motion seconded by Ron Robelia. None opposed. MC*

(d) Town Board recommendation to work on an updated Planning Commission Ordinance with the inclusion of a paragraph on appointment and expectation of alternate members. This ordinance will be worked on as time allows. *No action taken.*

6. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS. None.

7. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS. The Clerk informed those present that a public hearing will be required before the Planning Commission on the Countryside Coop Feed Mill special exception request. A public hearing may also be required on the special exception request by Cornerstone Paving for a temporary concrete plant on the American Materials site. The Clerk will follow up on.

8. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS OR REPORTS TO THE TOWN BOARD. None

9. SET NEXT MEETING DATE for ***Monday, April 20, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.***

10. ADJOURNMENT. *Motion by Leon Herrick to adjourn, without objection.* Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

(Minutes are subject to approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting)

Date: March 31, 2015

Cheryl Miller, Clerk