

Town of Namakagon
Comprehensive Planning Commission (CPC) Minutes
September 9, 2024, 7:00 P.M.
Namakagon Town Hall

Members Present:

Dave Hanks (Chair), Linda Kraft, Jerome Malmquist, Larry Pribyl, James Krueger, P.C. Rasmussen

Members Absent:

None!

Guests: Jack McGreger (Town Supervisor)

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by chair Dave Hanks

1. Approve minutes June 3, 2024 - Motion by Pribyl, 2nd by Malmquist to approve as submitted. Motion carried.
2. Appoint a CPC Secretary – Malmquist was next in the rotation.
4. The order of the agenda was adjusted to review immediate issues. The current plan review was moved to the end of the meeting.
5. A **short-term rental application** for Randy D. Rouhoff property was reviewed and approved with the following conditions:
 - A. Correct the address to 45020 Sugar Bay Drive (first two digits were reversed)
 - B. Cars cannot be parked on the road. Off-road parking is required. (It is a one lane road and emergency vehicles would not be able to reach the other homes.
 - C. There must be a local agent named, per the Town of Namakagon requirements, to be responsible for the property.
6. Jack and Jim provided an update on the **Walking & Bike Trail along County Highway M.**
 - A. Jim and Jack spend two days walking the areas with Jon Schubbe, an engineer with Rock Solid Trail Contracting LLC, from Namakagon Sunset Road to Frels Road. The goal is to get walkers and bikes off County Highway M.
 - B. Garmisch Road is not in the plan. Some areas would require a walking bridge to pass through wetlands.
 - C. There will need to be discussions with several stakeholders in the area; neighbors, US Forest Service, etc.
 - D. There are several grants available to help with the future costs but there needs to be a plan to file the applications.
 - E. Members were asked to think about options for trail locations.
7. Bayfield County Planning and Zoning – the **Four Towns Meeting**

Background – There has been much frustration with the town residents about the timeliness of issuing permits and at times some of the requirements. The four towns are; Grand View, Namakagon, Drummond, and Cable. Barnes has expressed an interest in joining the group.

 - A. The Four Towns group is working on a formal letter/message to send to the County. Namakagon will send their own letter as well as the other towns.
 - B. Chanz Greene has been receiving numerous complaints. He is planning to call for an audit of the County Planning and Zoning services.
8. The 2025 Comprehensive Planning Commission **budget** – A request for \$2,000 will be submitted to the Town Board.

9. The Board then moved on to review the **Town of Namakagon's current 2019 Comprehensive Plan**, pages 19 to 27. (The plan needs to be updated every ten years.)

A. We only reviewed up to page 20! Items in pages 19 and 20 generated much discussion on:

B. Chapter 5 – Transportation:

1. The web links in the plan. Larry Pribyl was tasked to check the links to determine which ones need to be updated.
2. There was a question on how much of the State Trail System has been developed.
3. A discussion on pedestrian road crossings came up as there have been issues. The town needs to petition the county on locations for identifying and marking pedestrian crossings AND additional speed zones with the intent of slowing traffic.

C. Chapter 6 – Utilities and Community Facilities:

1. In a discussion on the Great Divide Ambulance service, we learned:

- I. Currently staffed at the very minimum, which requires much overtime and staff being stressed out. There are only three crews covering 24/7/365
- II. The ambulance committee has been working hard to solve the issues. Numerous things have been looked at and some tried like; private agencies, bonus plans, education tuition coverage, etc. Research is being done to learn what the competitive wages and benefits are around the area and state.
- III. The technical colleges at times do not offer courses as there are not enough students!
- IV. There is a need for legislative support. A meeting with Chanz Greene is coming up.
- V. Some communities combine ambulance crews with the fire department. This would require full-time fire personnel.
- VI. There was a discussion on property insurance costs for the area. IF there were a full-time fire personnel. Insurance costs would drop significantly. This needs further consideration.

10. At the next meeting, the board will review pages 20 to 27.

11. Public Comment

None.

12. Next meeting is planned for October 7 at 7:00 P.M.

13. Adjourned by the Chair Hanks at 8:10 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jerome Malmquist.