

Wednesday, October 10 2012
8:30am

Zoning & Conservation

Minutes

Sawyer County Zoning and Conservation Committee
October 10, 2012

Committee Members Present: James Bassett, Fred Zietlow, Bruce Paulsen, Dale Thompson, Chuck Gundersen and Bernie Kadlec.

Others Present: Len Eckerly, Dick Dewhurst, Linda Zillmer, Phi Nies, Warren Johnson, Mike Koehler, Jim Hausman, Jim Purdin, PJ Schaefer, Ron Bergin, Frank Dallam, Dave Kafura, Kris Mayberry, Dale Olson, Cindy Yackley and Terrell Boettcher-Sawyer County Record.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Bassett. Olson requested that the accessory structures on vacant land issue be moved up to the first topic of discussion under New Business. Motion by Bassett second by Gundersen to move that agenda item up and to approve the agenda as revised. Motion carried.

Motion by Gundersen, second by Zietlow to approve the September 12, 2012 minutes. Motion carried.

Audience Recognition

Zillmer requested that copies of the updated zoning ordinance and list of amendments be available to the public at the Zoning Office.

OLD BUSINESS

Accessory structures on vacant property

The Committee reviewed a recommendation submitted by Phil Nies regarding an amendment to the existing zoning ordinance which would allow for accessory structures to be placed on vacant lands which lie across the road from the dwelling. The amendment would include the stipulation that the lots be bound together by deed and recorded. This proposal would be an addition to Section 4.26 of the ordinance and by conditional use. Olson stated that due to this being a comprehensive change to the ordinance, this proposal would need

to be approved by the towns and that he recommends that it become an office policy at this time due to the expense of amending the ordinance for this one amendment. Discussion was held. Some committee members voiced their concerns regarding problems with office policies. Motion by Paulsen, second by Gundersen to accept Olson's recommendation of making this issue an office policy for the time being. This approval is only for lands lying across town and county roads and this office policy is to be codified at a later time when there is other proposed amendments to be considered at a public hearing. Motion carried.

Round Lake Watershed Management update

A written recommendation drafted by the Round Lake Chain Taskforce was submitted to the Committee indicating that the taskforce recommends the replacement of the Carlson Road Bridge, removing the existing dam and replacing it with a concrete box culvert or similar structure and to also request that the DNR rescind the 1941 order. A written response to the Taskforces recommendations was also submitted by the Round Lake Property Owners Association Board of Directors which indicated the concerns they had with the Taskforces recommendations which also included alternatives. Jim Purdin spoke of the concerns stating that the Taskforces recommendation leaves no one responsible or no accountability for stewardship. They (RLPOA), recommends in part, that the dam be replaced with a culvert but it should be designed in a way that a V notched weir could be added to provide low water control in the event there was a major rain event. They also recommend that the order be modified and not rescinded, to reflect that the water level cannot be managed within a specific range but that it continues to specify responsibility and accountability for the monitoring and maintaining the health of the lake. Purdin further stated that the RLPOA is willing to help contribute to the engineering costs related to the capability of the structure being converted to a dam if the beaver dam fails and they are willing to share in funding and performance of ongoing maintenance. Discussion was then held on both recommendations. Motion by Gundersen, second by Zietlow to approve the recommendation of the Taskforce as presented and to send the Committees recommendation for approval on to County Board. Motion carried.

Update on the Washburn County Birch Lake Dam Expenses

Olson informed the Committee that he is still waiting for a response from Washburn County regarding information on the expenses and that payment will

not be submitted to them until he receives the information requested.

NEW BUSINESS

NRCS Business

Mike Koehler reported that there is no Farm Bill at the present time. EQIP and the Conservation Stewardship Program, has funding and they are in the process of taking applications for those programs. The EQIP application deadline is the 15th of January and they are encouraging that signup be early due to the weather at that time of year. The technician is back from Afghanistan and has been helpful in helping the office catch up. Koehler stated that he's been working with Tim Seidl on three potential manure pit applications for manure storage. He expects that the funding will be 10-15% less this year.

DNR Business

Frank Dallam reported that the Sissabagama Dam will be rebuilt. It's a privately owned dam that is within the county on Sissabagama Road. He also reported that he has been contacted by Ayers Associates regarding the Moose Lake RFE and an inspection letter will be coming shortly regarding Callahan Lake. Dallam also asked the Committee that whomever the County hires for the private dam inspections that they pay specific attention to the online report format that is on the DNR webpage. Any new inspections should follow the new format. Olson added that the Dam on Moose Lake is owned by Excel Energy and they have done a dam failure analysis and that Zoning will be holding a public hearing on this in November, but as part of this study the department is looking for an RFE (Regional Flood Elevation) on the lake and will do that if the Committee is willing to approve Olson finding the money for it from the department budget. This will be discussed later in the agenda.

D. Thompson leaves the meeting (10:00am)

LCO Business

None

CAMBA – Mountain Bike Park

Ron Bergin, member of the Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) handed out an overview of CAMBA's proposal, to develop a mountain bike park and skills area at the Hatchery Creek Park. The handout identified what the park and skills area would be and where it would be located within the Hatchery Creek Park. CAMBA would raise the necessary funds to design and construct the park/skills area and its features, perform maintenance as necessary under an agreement with the county and would include the park in

promotional material to promote the park. Bergin asked the Committee for approval to use the areas of Hatchery Creek Park and discussion followed. Motion by Zietlow, second by Paulsen to approve the concept of the park provided that CAMBA obtain all the necessary permits required. CAMBA is to come back to the Committee with maps and a final design plan of the park for the Committees review and for final approval. Motion carried.

County Clerk

1) Donation of Land

Mayberry informed the Committee that there is a piece of land in the Town of Spider Lake that was previously sold on a county land sale and that the owner didn't want it anymore and they would like to donate it back to the County. Mayberry indicated that the property is all wetlands and is not buildable. Olson said that he contacted the neighbors but they weren't interested in buying it. Mayberry stated he doesn't mind accepting the land this way but that the people donating should be responsible for all costs involved to record the deed. Olson said that there is 1.70 acres of land and currently the daughter of the owners, who have since passed away, is settling the estate and does not want the land. Motion by Paulsen, second by Gundersen to accept the donation of land provided that she pay all expenses in the recording of the deed. Motion carried.

2) 2012 Sawyer County Land Sale Approval

Mayberry handed out a list of bids received for the land sale and stated that the bids were lower than expected and not all the lands for sale received bids. Those parcels that did not receive any bids will be placed back on the land sale list for next year. Discussion was held on each parcel of land not receiving bids. Motion by Paulsen, second by Gundersen to accept those bids that were received. Motion carried.

Moose Lake RFE

Discussion was previously held on this topic but Olson informed the Committee that the owners of the dam had a dam failure study done and for roughly \$1,800.00 a regional flood elevation can be determined. Discussion was held. Motion by Paulsen, second by Gundersen to authorize Olson to accept Ayres Associates bid of \$1,800.00 and to take money out of different accounts from the department's 2012 budget to pay for the regional flood study. This issue is to be placed on the agenda of the Finance Committee for approval. Motion carried.

Monthly Work Report

Olson passed out the statement of monthly permits issued and the receipts by payment code report stating that sanitary permits are down due to no lake survey conducted this year. There are several land use permits that are on hold for some reason or another that are not included in the numbers listed on the permits report. Tim Seidl is busy working with wildlife damage. The department received the credit card machine and staff had a training session on it. The poster contest is underway with several posters received. They were displayed on a table for review. Olson also mentioned that he had received a 2012 WLWCA Election Ballot of the Land and Water Conservation Board and that he cast his vote for three candidates who are running. The Committee previously authorized Olson to handle the voting for them.

Review and Approve Monthly Vouchers

Motion by Zietlow, second by Gundersen to approve the monthly vouchers.
Motion carried.

Other Business for Discussion Only

Zietlow asked that the Karen Melasecca, Manager of the Namekagon Transit be placed on the November 16th Zoning Committee agenda to allow Karen the opportunity to speak regarding request to waive the permit fees for the construction of the new transit building. Discussion was held. Bassett abstained from the discussion due to him being an employee of the business.

Adjournment

Motion by Gundersen, second by Zietlow to adjourn. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Yackley, Deputy Zoning Administrator

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