

Town of Saratoga Plan Commission

June 9, 2021

Plan Commission Members	
Chair	Dave Barth
Sarajane Snyder, Co-chair	Josh McDonald
Tom Grygo, Secretary:	Gordon Wipperfurth, Alternate

Sarajane Snyder opened the meeting of the Town of Saratoga Plan Commission at 6:3 PM on June 9, 2021, at the Saratoga Town Hall. The meeting was officially noticed.

Motion by Barth to approve the minutes of May 12, 2021, Plan Commission Meeting, second by McDonald, motion approved.

Pam Pitrowski was not present. Snyder recognized Macey Shutter to discuss a new business permit. Shutter said she wants to start a coffee shop “Sweet Sips” located at the same location as Shutter’s Garden Center, 706 STH 7. Macy and Julie Shutter presented a site plan showing the proposed coffee shop and driveway. The business will be a drive thru only and located in an existing building east of the greenhouses. The menu will include coffee, tea, and future short order breakfast; hours will be 6am-2pm. To accommodate a loop driveway, connected to the existing Garden Center entrance serving the proposed coffee shop, some trees on the east side of the property will be removed. Wipperfurth suggested providing outdoor seating. Fuehrer said a building permit is not required to renovate the existing building to accommodate the coffee shop. The Plan Commission gave tentative approval of the site plan and asked that Shutter return in July and submit a business permit application.

Travis Demski business permit

Travis Demski said he is buying Leo’s Tractors, keeping the same business model, sign and changing the name to “Demski Trucks, LLC”. A Town Business Permit is required before obtaining a DOT dealers license. Discussion followed regarding the number of trucks on site and scrap parts. Wipperfurth raised concerns about too much scrap on site. Rickaby questioned if Demski was selling parts and he affirmed parts were being sold. Rickaby said a scrap yard permit was also required to sell parts. It was also noted that access to the site is a shared driveway with Critter’s Pub.

Motion by Barth to recommend Town Board approve the business permit., second by McDonald, motion approved.

Steckbauer business permit

Fuehrer said Rob Steckbauer was not able to attend the meeting. She said the permit was for an accessory building with an area dedicated as an office when meeting with customers.

Motion by Wipperfurth to recommend Town Board approve the business permit, second by McDonald, motion approved.

Ruesch PUD

Ruesch was not present.

Fireworks ordinance

Plan Commission reviewed the Nekoosa Fireworks Ordinance and questioned why the Town need an ordinance. It was noted that the state statutes 167.10 require a local permit for any public fireworks display. Discussion followed.

Motion by McDonald to recommend Town Board approval of a fireworks ordinance including the conditions of only shooting over water, firetruck and personnel on hand, and the operator trained and licensed, second by Wipperfurth, motion approved.

REDI grants

Bill Leichtnam said the REDI grants is a work in progress and not grants are available at this time. Nancy Turyk, UW Extension, will provide information regarding REGI at the Town Board meeting June 16. He said the projects listed in the "Wood County Wisconsin Rural Economic Development Plan, March 2021", are about 3-9 months off target due to Covid. He said possible future grants may include broadband expansion and affordable housing. Discussion followed regarding affordable housing in the Town and County.

Leichtnam also commented about the solar project and feels the Town is in a position to request the solar project owners provide;

- Mitigating land for wildlife

- Scholarships for Nekoosa and Wisconsin Rapids students attending college for engineering degree.

- Assisting with community festivals

- Signage recognizing the solar array

- Assistance with providing off-road trails for ATV, UTV.

Snyder suggested the Plan Commission members make recommendations for requests at the next meeting.

Information from Committee members

Snyder said the SPARKS committee requests to take over the final development of the NEPCO access. Wipperfurth said the site needs final grading, gravel parking lot and possible surfacing of the trail to the lake. It was agreed SPARKS take over development of the access site.

Wipperfurth said Wakely group has a sign naming the landing "Point Basse Landing" showing the water route and also a plan of the Wakely property.

Public comments.

Wipperfurth asked the audience about any additional contact with Shane Ruesch. Borski said the land south of Silver Creek Trail cannot be subdivided; there are still questions about access. Borski said DOT will not approve another HWY 13 access within 500' of Silver Creek Trail.

Fuehrer said she is retiring as the building inspector and zoning administrator. The new building inspector is Josh Volz.

Snyder commented about the Plan Commission needing one additional member and asked Rob Borski if he was interested. Borski said he would consider it after the Ruesch development is settled.

The next meeting is July 14, 2021

Motion by Barth to adjourn second by McDonald, meeting adjourned 8:10 PM

The above minutes are unapproved.