

Town of Saratoga Plan Commission

December 8, 2021

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

Sarajane Snyder, Chair opened the meeting of the Town of Saratoga Plan Commission at 6:30PM on December 8, 2021, at the Saratoga Town Hall. The meeting was officially noticed.

Motion by Wipperfurth to approve the Plan Commission minutes of November 10, 2021, second by McDonald, motion approved.

Snyder changed the order of the agenda to accommodate the zoom meeting with North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC).

Comprehensive Plan

Dennis Lawrence of NCRPC outlined procedures for updating the town comprehensive plan as follows:

- Create a new plan in a different format than the existing plan

- Nine chapters following state statutes

- Have five meeting, meet every other month for about 12-16 months: 1-1/2 hour per meeting.

- NCRPC to provide draft chapters for Plan Commission review and approval

- Policy development is local

- Economic development will be handled by an outside consultant

- First meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2022, at 6:00 PM

- Heidi is the point of contact for all correspondence.

Public participation

Review the public participation info from NCRPC, put on January agenda for recommending Town Board approval.

Jensen CSM

Motion by McDonald to recommend Town Board approval of Jensen CSM, second by Wipperfurth, motion approved.

Wondzell proposed subdivision

Lorelei Fuehrer, Zoning Administrator requested via email this item not be discussed as the applications were recently submitted and the public hearings not legally noticed. A discussion followed about accepting rezoning requests that do not follow the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan, and the extent to zone Highway 13 S as Highway Commercial. Concerns were also raised about storage rental buildings.

Bicycle trail update

Wipperfurth said there are no copyright concerns with using the flag logo and presented a copy of an email to that effect from Gary Groenke of Design Partners. He said after a discussion with McDonald and Chairman Rickaby, Boz was told to go ahead with the design noting a few minor directional arrow changes on November 29, 2021. Boz to get permission from the county on sign placement. Because of a delay in getting Saratoga sign approval, installation may not take place until spring.

Wakely task force

Wipperfurth said he met with Wakely representatives Mike Hittner and Don Mathews to discuss Wakely future plans and discuss the Town of Saratoga lands and park goals. Wakely has a new board which is meeting next week to develop their five- and ten-year goals. Wipperfurth said he felt there is a strong interest in joining forces with the town and further developing the Historic Wakely site with town citizen involvement.

Public Comments

None

Information from Commission Members

Snyder raised questions about the Town salting the entire length of Range Line Rd. This has never happened before. McDonald said it may be due to the increased traffic from the solar project. He expressed a concern about the Town running out of road salt.

Wipperfurth said he has several concerns

1. He wants to see the Plan Commission remain an independent board advising the Town Board and Town Citizens. He cited the example of recently ranking spending priorities at the direction of a Town Board member and failing to have a discussion on how the priorities should be listed and recommended to the Town Board.
2. The SPARKS committee is comprised of three Town Board members and the Plan Commission Chair, and reports to a five person Town Board, which means the SPARKS committee essentially reports to itself. He said he believes this is a conflict of interest and the committee should either report to the Planning Commission for recommendations to the Town Board or the committee should be dissolved, and a new committee formed with Plan Commission oversight.
3. Wants meeting minutes posted as soon as possible after the meeting, even though the minutes have not formally been approved. He said the early posted minutes can easily be adjusted with corrections as needed and updated postings become official as in the past.

The next meeting is January 12, 2022

Motion by McDonald to adjourn second by Wipperfurth meeting adjourned 8:27 PM