

Town of Saratoga Plan Commission

September 11, 2019

Plan Commission Members	
Dan Forbes, Chair	Dave Barth
Gordon Wipperfurth, Co-chair, Absent	Sarajane Snyder
Tom Grygo, Secretary	

Dan Forbes opened the meeting of the Town of Saratoga Plan Commission at 6:30 PM on September 11, 2019 at the Saratoga Town Hall. The meeting was officially noticed.

Motion by Barth to accept the minutes of August 14, 2019, second by Snyder, motion approved.

Central Wisconsin School of Agriculture

Gus Mancuso, and Scott Sigourney from the Central Wisconsin School of Agriculture, and Bob Ness, owner Clancy's Driving Range presented information relating to a request for rezoning the Ness property from Highway Commercial to farm/rural status for the purpose of developing an educational farm school. Activities proposed at the site include, classroom, farm tours, corn maze, green house, petting zoo.

Snyder said the town is not interested in standard agriculture practices and does not want the use of standard agriculture chemicals on site. She also said the Town should broaden its definition of school to include demonstration sites such as the proposed agricultural school.

Forbes allowed public comments. Rick Potter said the property is zoned commercial and to rezone to agriculture may open the door to other farms. Bruce Dimick reiterated Potters concerns and asked why the Central Wisconsin School of Agriculture is not staying at the Altenburg property on Highway 54. Mancuso said the school had a two-year lease on the property and offered to buy the farm from Altenburg, however, could not reach a final conclusion. Discussion followed regarding zoning, and agriculture in the Town.

Forbes said since a school is not a permitted or allowed by CUP in the Highway Commercial District, he wants to review this proposal with an attorney before making any recommendations and hoped to have an answer for the next October meeting. A discussion followed pertaining to the mechanics of rezoning and possible timelines involved. No decision was reached regarding the rezoning or permitting a farm school as requested.

Barth said he is in favor of the school, but not at the Ness property. He said this is prime commercial property and the school should look at a more rural location.

Strangfeld business permit

Strangfeld was not present to answer questions regarding the permit application and business activities. Motion by Barth to table the business permit for lack of information, second by Snyder, motion approved.

Badger Hollow, Iowa County, contract review

A proposed addition to the contract is the use of down lighting and limiting any electronic/flashing/changeable type sign.

Public questions were raised regarding the solar project in the Town. Forbes said; Wysocki is selling the land to the solar company.

The project is tax exempt however, funds are returned to the Town and County from the Public Service Commission.

The need for rezoning is unknown, checking with an attorney about this.

The Town Board is generally in favor of the project.

An application has not been made to the PSC

Discussion followed regarding the proposed solar project in the Town.

CUP revisions

Motion by Barth to send the CUP revisions to the Town Board for review, second by Snyder, motion approved.

Information from commission members

None

Public Comments were accepted during the meeting.

The next meeting is October 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

Motion by Barth to adjourn second by Snyder, meeting adjourned 8:40 PM