

Town of Saratoga Plan Commission

July 12, 2017

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

Dan Forbes opened the meeting of the Town of Saratoga Plan Commission at 6:30 PM on July 12, 2017 at the Saratoga Town Hall. The meeting was officially noticed.

Motion by Wipperfurth to accept the minutes of June 14, 2017, second by Barth, motion approved.

Presentation by Rick Bakovka, President REGI

Bakovka said REGI is currently working with the City of Wisconsin Rapids and the Village of Biron helping to connect a road and bike trail between the two municipalities. REGI is also acting as a liaison between Wood County Planning and Zoning Dept. and the City of Nekoosa, regarding coordination in developing a County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Bakovka said he sees Highway 73, from Nekoosa east to Highway 13, and Highway 13, from Wisconsin Rapids, south to the Town or Rome, as local economic corridors. He also mentioned Clancy's property as a potential for major economic development. However, without municipal sewer and water most major business concerns are not interested this property, or similar location. A discussion followed regarding extending sewer from the Village of Port Edwards.

Before any development begins the Town should have a strategic plan, which is developed by input from members of the community. Bakovka commented we should be planning for what Saratoga looks like without a paper mill driving the economic development of the area. He said the goal of REGI is to "regionally make everyone look good." The model for REGI is from Pinellas County, Florida (<https://www.pinellascounty.org/strategicplan/pdf/goals-strategies-landscape.pdf>).

Snyder commented regarding the number and size of billboards in the Town. A discussion followed.

Rhonda Carrell said she would like to see year-round emphasis on recreation and development since it is hard on businesses with only seasonal help. She also said the Town residents and visitors enjoy seeing the trees and natural areas of the Town commenting, "trees in a row are still trees."

Wipperfurth questioned the economic growth in the area. It was agreed the problem with growth is lack of a committed workforce. Bakovka said one thing that is needed in most communities is moderately priced workforce housing, which is a concern for Sand Valley. He said Sand Valley is also planning a major land acquisition for environmental set aside.

Grygo asked what financial commitment participating members are making to REGI. Bakovka said the REGI's annual budget is \$200,000. While there are no set fees communities are contributing \$3-7 thousand per year and town between \$3500-7500 annually. A discussion followed regarding return on the dollar for participation in REGI. One example Bakovka cited was Gulfstream Aerospace contacting him regarding assisting with the Wisconsin Rapids Airport expansion.

Regarding participation in REGI by the Town, Bakovka suggested the town set aside about \$4500 and release the money after the Town has an opportunity to evaluate REGI's support.

Bill Leichtnam suggested the Plan Commission proceed with a motion recommending the Town Board join REGI and make a financial commitment.

Motion by Barth that the Plan Commission recommend the Town Board earmark \$4500, as a 2018 budget item, for the purpose of joining REGI, second by Wipperfurth, motion approved.

Fuehrer presented two draft proposals, one on fair housing and the other on housing standards. She said without the housing standards the Town may not order the removal of dilapidate, or substandard housing units. Discussion followed.

Fuehrer said she received a request from Nicollet Staffing, to display a banner type sign advertising for help, at two locations; Clancy's, 9331 STH 13 S, for 14 days, and Lon Federwitz property 836 STH 73 for 30 days. The Town Sign Ordinance allows temporary signs to be displayed for 14 days (section 3.7.1). A discussion followed, the request for an extension to display the sign beyond 14 days at 836 STH 73 was denied.

There was no additional information from commission members

Public comments were accepted during the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2017 at 6:30 in the Saratoga Town Hall.

Motion by Barth to adjourn second by Snyder, meeting adjourned 8:35 PM