

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
PLAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2017
GIBRALTAR TOWN CENTER
7:00 P.M.**

Approved July 25, 2017

Call to order: The regular meeting of the Gibraltar Plan Commission was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Linda Merline, chairperson.

Roll Call/quorum: Merline stated that a quorum of the Commission was present.

Members present: Linda Merline, James DeGroot, Bob MacDonald, and Tom Blackwood.

Absent: Brian Hackbarth

Proper notice: *Motion: (Blackwood, DeGroot) to adopt the agenda as posted. Carried*

Approve minutes of previous meetings:

Motion: (DeGroot, MacDonald) to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2017 Fish Creek Protection and Improvement Plan minutes, as written. Carried

Motion: (MacDonald, DeGroot) to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2017 meeting as amended. Carried

Public comment: Christopher Hadraba, White Cottage Red Door, stated he was in attendance because Rick Brauer asked him to remove an “Open” flag from his business. Merline stated that 1 “Open” flag is allowed in Gibraltar and that Rick Brauer does the enforcement for the County. Hadraba asked if an exemption could be made, due to the speeds at which people drive past on the Hwy.

Goal 8: Rewrite/make recommendation for adjusting county zoning to match the comprehensive plan’s vision

- **Town of Gibraltar – Additional Sign Requirements – 8.09(4b) (“art flags” and outdoor display):**
DeGroot reviewed section 8.09(4)(b) regarding outdoor display that includes additional sign requirements for Gibraltar within the County sign ordinance. The ordinance is too subjective. DeGroot suggests broadening the ordinance and presented a draft revision to simplify, while still keeping with the overall character of the Town.
It was discussed that a definition is needed to define the difference between reader board and sandwich board. A reader board is attached to a building. Sandwich boards become a safety concern and creates “visual noise”.
Merline edited the current overlay with adjustments based on last month’s discussion. The Commission reviewed the changes. She added a section regarding outdoor display. Merline will revise and bring back next month.
“Art flag” needs to be defined.
- **Temporary Uses 2.07:** Merline is concerned about commercial enterprises in residential districts, specifically barn weddings. A property owner can have up to 10 events on their property (starting in July, could have an event every weekend through summer). These uses do not need to comply with fire codes nor sanitation requirements. Merline would like to limit to non-profit events only. MacDonald stated the barn weddings are very popular and bring business into the community. Blackwood hasn’t heard of any complaints.
- **Outdoor Active Recreation Facility 4.07(9):** Merline stated that an Outdoor Active Recreational Facility is a commercial operation (zipline, paintball, bungee jumping etc.) allowed by conditional use in conservation area, countryside, and natural areas. They require 20 acres but is difficult to understand why

the County would allow something in a conservation area. Blackwood noted that Gibraltar is a smaller township and doesn't see an area that would be suitable.

Consideration of Earth Day Activities – Invasive Species, Tree Replacement, and other possible connections:

Can the Earth Day activities tie into the goals of the Comprehensive Plan? The invasive species challenge and tree planting in Fish Creek Park could be something the Plan Commission could sponsor. Will be losing many ash, beech and birch trees. The trees help keep the Creek healthy, by providing shade to regulate the temperature, keeping it cool. Among the green and nonprofit organizations is it the responsibility of the Plan Commission to help promote? It is in the Comprehensive plan to educate on invasive species and to create a tree planting plan. Will contact other Towns about whether they are involved in Earth Day planning.

Reports

- A. Chair report:** Merline reported that a draft of Creek Plan has been received. It was due to the State by June 30th. We have asked the DNR for an extension on the Plan and have until the end of the year. However, grant cycles begin in the fall. Merline would like to complete prior to Labor Day, requiring a special meeting in July. The Plan Commission will need to answer a few questions regarding the sequence and organization of the Plan. The draft has been sent out. The Commission will review for a special meeting.
The Coastal Management grant was not funded for the culvert.
- B. Ground and surface water:** No Report
- C. Town Board/parks & lands:** No Report
- D. Bike/pedestrian plan:** No Report

Set the next meeting date: *July 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.*

Adjourn: *Motion: (DeGroot, Blackwood) to adjourn at 10:07 p.m. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Murre
Deputy Clerk