

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
PLAN COMMISSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2008
7:00 P.M.
GIBRALTAR TOWN CENTER**

Call to order: The regular meeting of the Gibraltar Plan Commission was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Tom Birmingham, chairman.

Members present: Tom Birmingham, David Boyd, Andy Coulson and Linda Merline
Members absent: Jim Jauquet

Approve minutes of last meeting: *It was moved by David Boyd and seconded by Andy Coulson to approve the minutes of August 26, 2008 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

Open discussion and correspondence: No correspondence has been received.

Implementation 2008: Pedestrian and bike trail plan: Tom Birmingham stated that the transportation subcommittee (Tom Birmingham and Jim Jauquet) and interested attendees (Brian Merkel, David and Renny Lea and Mike Manis) met to review existing paths and brainstorm for new pedestrian and bike trails/paths. The concerns at the meeting were to improve safety. Initial suggestions were:

- Identify the intersection at Hwy. 42 and County A for bicycle crossing
- A crosswalk be identified at the Fish Creek BP station
- Double wide sidewalks for pedestrian/bike lanes
- Access through the town might include a double wide sidewalk from downtown to the Town Center where individuals could then get on the back trail and go through Fish Creek Park and cross to the Peninsula Park entrance
- The Town could obtain an easement off the end of Bluff Street and come through to the Town Center parking lot then connect to Fish Creek Park
- The bridges over the creek may have to be rebuilt
- More shoulders on town and county roads be paved for safety

Tom Birmingham stated that Brian Merkel brought organization to the meeting. There is a need before anything can be done in Brian Merkel's plan that the town adopt a comprehensive plan for bike and pedestrian trails as well as an economic study. The floor was given to Brian Merkel. Brian Merkel stated that there is a group of individuals called the Door County Silent Sports Alliance. One of their missions is to support cycling, walking, jogging and skiing. Door County is behind in regard to these sport type paths and routes. Per Chris Fortune of the Governor's Council the items needed to seek funding are: an in-place, adopted, written comprehensive plan and an economic impact study. Brian Merkel representing the Silent Sports Alliance contacted the Bike Federation of Wisconsin, which has planners on staff. Jack Hurt, president of the Bike Federation and a lead planner stated funding source(s) need to be identified for the creation of the comprehensive plan. An estimated cost of \$30,000 - 60,000 was given. The cost of \$30,000 (roughly 500 hours @ \$60/hr.) would include:

- A baseline countywide plan
- Soft engineering (education and enforcement, grant information, implementation guidelines, facility descriptions and dimensions)
- Economic impact study summary
- County wide bicycle network
- Analyze existing roadways and trails
- Recommendations for facility repairs and additions
- Map a complete network of routes between each municipality

- Route network could also contain loops that hit key county destinations for day trips of varying lengths.

Additional items above the baseline plan could include:

- More in-depth analysis of urban areas and state parks that would depict site recommendations for trails in parks and how to best cycle through an urban area (with a Main Street/commercial route where applicable.) Municipality costs would range from \$2-3,000 up to \$5-6,000. For cycling within a community the cost would range from \$10,000 for Sturgeon Bay and less for smaller communities.

At a follow-up meeting of the Silent Sports Alliance the group felt that it was key to the Door County Comprehensive Plan that something be put in to address cycling plan needs. At the same meeting it was learned that Door County has a comprehensive bike plan that was adopted in 2001-2002. Brian Merkel contacted Jack Hurt to review the plan and make suggestions/recommendations. Jack Hurt estimated a cost of \$6-7,000 for a comprehensive plan specific to Fish Creek (downtown areas and maybe some of the road shoulders.) Becky Kerwin of Door County Planning stated that an e-mail be sent from the Silent Sports Alliance to her asking that the current bike transportation plan be included in the goals portion of the county comprehensive plan. Phil Clampitt, Professor of Information and Computing Science at UWGB offered to make inquiries of students and professors who may be interested in taking on an economic impact study project; he will follow-up with Brian regarding this.

Brian Merkel stated in summary that great ideas have come from the meetings but something needs to be started. Tom Birmingham thanked Brian for his presentation. Tom Birmingham stated that funding of the plan could be considered for 2009 as a separate line item. David Boyd stated that through a sustainability approach you would look at bikes not just bike paths. Dick Skare stated that looking from a sustainability perspective grant opportunities could be found.

Gibraltar sign ordinance revisions: Final reading: David Boyd reviewed the draft revisions. A separate display ordinance would also be recommended. *It was moved by Andy Coulson and seconded Linda Merline to approve the final draft. Motion carried unanimously.* David Boyd will present at the October 1st town board meeting.

Sustainability practice within the Town of Gibraltar: Dick Skare stated that practicing sustainability overlaps people, profit and plants. Resources are being challenged and by adopting sustainable practices clashes can be mitigated. The Swedish sustainability model minimizes impact and encompasses the entire community. In the US sustainability is more of a “best practices.” *The Natural Step for Communities* details guiding objectives, etc. If sustainable principles are considered as the community moves forward an impact can be made with the opportunities we have. The tone for sustainability can be set without prohibition. The #1 issue of importance is water quality per Skare. Dick Skare recommended drafting a sample ordinance to the town board and having Foth make a presentation to the commission. Tom Birmingham thanked Dick Skare and asked David Boyd to follow-up with Foth.

2009 budget: The Commission reviewed each item of the 2008 budget figures. The bike comprehensive plan is planned under special consultant. Addition funds for meetings and reporting were included for the 5-year comprehensive review. The 2009 budget was prepared as follows:

DESCRIPTION	2008 BUDGET	2008 AS OF 9/19/08	2008 OCT - DEC	2008 TOTAL	2009 BUDGET
Planning Committee					
Meetings	\$4,500.00	\$2,475.00	\$2,475.00	\$4,950.00	\$8,100.00
Spec. Consultant	\$1,500.00	\$36.00	\$500.00	\$536.00	\$8,500.00
Mapping	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Advertising	\$600.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00

Reporting/Disseminating	\$1,000.00	\$544.80	\$454.20	\$999.00	\$2,000.00
Membership fee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Conferences	\$400.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$500.00
Payroll Expenses	\$400.00	\$224.53	\$174.00	\$398.53	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$10,400.00	\$3,880.33	\$6,103.20	\$9,983.53	\$21,600.00

Committee reports:

- A. Preservation: Nothing to report.
- B. Ground and surface water protection: Bill Weddig has requested to be on the town board agenda for storm sewer cleaning and video condition documentation.
- C. Official map: Nothing to report.
- D. Housing: Nothing to report.
- E. Comprehensive plan education: Nothing to report.
- F. Transportation: Previously discussed.

Set next meeting date: The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn: *It was moved by Linda Merline and seconded by Andy Coulson to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hagen, CMC
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer