

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
PLAN COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2010
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 Linda Merline, chairman.

Members present: Linda Merline, Brian Hackbarth, Britt Unkefer and Tom Blackwood
Members absent: Andy Coulson

Approve minutes of last meeting: *It was moved by Hackbarth and seconded by Blackwood to approve the minutes of April 27, 2010 as amended. Motion carried unanimously.*

Correspondence: No correspondence had been received. Merline received an e-mail from Tom Birmingham to reconsider architectural standards within a community relative to franchises.

Public Comment: Merrell Runquist, Town Chairman stated the enforcement of the Open Meetings Law is a priority of the Wisconsin Attorney General. The agenda item "Open Discussion" is no longer allowed. The basic rule is that any citizen reading an agenda has an informed reasonable expectation of what is to be discussed. While the governmental body may discuss an unnoticed matter under a noticed "public comment" agenda item, it is recommended that the body defer *extensive* discussion of the matter until a future meeting when specific notice of the matter may be given. The only action allowed is for the chairperson to put the topic on a future agenda.

Discussion of the Outdoor Display of Merchandise: Merline brought up by Nancy Sargent at the annual meeting. The motion made was non-binding. Merline reviewed previous discussions on the topic which included a stand-alone ordinance, increase of display space which cascaded into other issues of parking. After review not a sufficient number of complaints and people need to make a living.

Merrell Runquist asked that his e-mail and comments be entered into the record. Runquist stated that any citizen can make or second a motion, except for 2 all other motions are advisory. Therefore it is up to the board/committee if the motion is to be taken up. The sign ordinance and the overlays regarding outdoor display of merchandise are working well. Within the last year there had been no more than 5 complaints. The basic rule is other than specifically prohibited items if the item is designed to be used outside it can be displayed outside. These are difficult times, it is incumbent on government now to help local business which is tourism. Fish Creek and Ephraim have the distinction of being 2 outstanding destinations in the Midwest by Midwest Living Magazine and the national publicity last week given to the White Gull Inn. The County Planning Department has police powers for the ordinance enforcement. The Commission thanked Runquist for his input. The Commission was in agreement that the current ordinance is sufficient and there is no need for action.

Neighborhood Electric Vehicles: Hackbarth stated he wished to begin a discussion on Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV). Currently in the state they are not permitted in a town unless an ordinance is passed to permit NEVs. Low Speed Vehicles (LSV) are included in the definition of NEVs. LSVs can only be used on roads with a speed limit of up to 35 mph. Electric vehicles travel 25 mph. A preliminary list of roads with qualifying speeds are:

- Gibraltar Road – between Cty. A and Hwy. 42
- Gibraltar Bluff Road

- Cottage Row Road from the top of the hairpin through the lower road
- Main Street – between Sunset beach and the Hwy 42 intersection
- A portion of Spring Road
- A portion of Cty. F
- Cedar Street
- Spruce Street
- Bluff Street
- Hill Street
- Pine Street
- Evergreen Road
- Wilder Road
- Hwy 42 from the top of the Fish Creek hill to the Fish Creek BP

In August 2009 the Town Board specifically allowed only use in the area delineated by Peninsula Park. Blackwood having brought the use of LSVs forward for the DNR in Peninsula Park has a practical working knowledge of the subject. Blackwood stated that from a sustainability perspective their use would be a practical move. Town counsel research of LSVs will be sought.

Committee Reports:

Surface & Groundwater Protection: PLC has completed the stormsewers immediately to the west of the beach. Unkefer, received a call back from Feingold’s office regarding the FEMA application. It was noted that part of Fish Creek Park is located in the flood plain. Brian Merkel questioned if an elevation survey has been done for Fish Creek Park. If not one was recommended to be done. The cost for an elevation survey is \$500-700. Hackbarth raised the question of long range restrictions on the town’s property. All the information FEMA has was based on the County’s GIS maps. Unkefer will copy Sharon Kellner on the ELOMA Application.

Gibraltar Bike and Ped Plan: The new committee members will be Brian Merkel, Ken Jones, Greg Stillman. Merkel stated all the plans have been forwarded to the DOT and DNR. A multimodal trail is in the early discussion stages. The plan is where it needs to be on the state and local levels.

Sustainable Gibraltar: Hackbarth stated an information packet had been given to a FCCA board member.

Set the Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn: *It was moved by Blackwood and seconded by Hackbarth to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Hagen, CMC
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer