

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
PLAN COMMISSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2011
7:00 P.M.
GIBRALTAR TOWN CENTER**

Call to order: The regular meeting of the Gibraltar Plan Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Linda Merline, chairman.

Roll Call/Quorum: Chairman Merline stated that a quorum of the Commission was present. Members present: Linda Merlin, Britt Unkefer, Brian Hackbarth, Tom Blackwood and Andy Coulson

Proper Notice/Adopt Agenda: Merline verified the agenda had been properly noticed. *It was moved by Hackbarth and seconded by Coulson to adopt the agenda as posted. Motion carried.*

Approve minutes of last meeting: *It was moved by Hackbarth and seconded by Coulson to approve the minutes of September 20, 2011 as amended. Motion carried.*

UW-Stevens Point Community Well Water Testing Program: Kevin Masarik presenting via teleconference: Bob Merline, Jerry Viste and Carol Sills from DCEC introduced the Commission to the UW-Stevens Point well water testing program. Bob Merline stated that the program is primarily an educational program. The program is collecting data to get a big picture of what is going in the state with regards to our groundwater. He said it would be a resource for the town to be a part of this program. Viste stated that the well water testing initial cost is \$103 to the well owner. Hackbarth asked if there is any risk of the well owner being forced to drill a new well from participating. Bob Merline stated that the results are private however; the town is the holder of the record. Once the results are given to the well owners UW-Stevens Point gives a presentation on the results for the whole town. They explain all of the compiled data and give information on how to handle the problem areas as well as how to keep the safe areas secure. Bob Merline explained that Liberty Grove participated in the program last summer and offered to be a resource to the Town of Gibraltar should they choose to partake in the program. Kevin Masarik called in via teleconference. Masarik gave a background of the program. He stated that the analysis is fairly cost effective compared to other labs in the area. Masarik said the fees are based on what test the well owners want performed. The program has three packages to choose from: basic homeowners; which tests for bacteria, nitrates, alkalinity, hardness, saturation index, PH levels and chloride; metals, which looks for arsenic, copper, lead, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and iron sulfate; and lastly a pesticide scan. The pesticide screen is done to look for the presence of pesticides used by farmers. He stated that the bottles would need to be distributed by the town or volunteers and also returned to UW-Stevens Point by the town or a volunteer. Hackbarth asked how they determine well depths. Masarik stated that they obtain well depth data from well construction reports on file, the DNR database or even from well owner's recollection of their individual well. Linda Merline asked how long the well water testing program has been going. Masarik answered that UW-Stevens Point has been doing well water testing for 20 years. He stated that they normally do 14 counties or towns per year and that their calendar for next year is already half filled up. Hackbarth asked who the data results are provided to. Masarik stated that they give the data to the homeowners and to the town. The information is provided to the town as a courtesy because the program is being arranged through the town. Hackbarth asked if the information stored at the town office would be subject to open records. Masarik thought that it would be, however, he stated that they could supply a more vague data record to provide anonymity to the well owner. Masarik stated that the data results are not given to the DNR. Linda Merline asked if there was a limit to the participation. Masarik answered that their limit is

115 tests. He explained that well advertised programs normally have a 10% of the population turn out. The minimum is 40 to participate. Linda Merline asked what the timeline is for the town to decide if they wanted to participate. Masarik said it is a matter of first come first serve as far as the dates they have available. Hackbarth asked if commercial facilities are part of the study. Masarik stated that anyone with a well can participate. Bob Merline stated that cost will be a big factor. DCEC will provide up to \$500 for advertising. Hackbarth stated that he has reservations due to the fact that the results provided to the town would be subject to open records. Hackbarth stated that if this goes forward he would like to see names and addresses left off of the town copy of the study. Linda Merline said the commission can call Liberty Grove with any questions. Unkefer stated that he agreed with Hackbarth about leaving names and addresses off of the town's copy of the study. He also stated that he is concerned with the cost to the Town to drive the water tests to Stevens Point. Coulson stated that he would like to get more information and possibly call Liberty Grove before making a decision. He also stated that he would like the commission to agree on a date to pencil in. The commission decided July 31st, 2012 would be the best date to allow for the most participation. *It was moved by Hackbarth and seconded by Unkefer to table until next meeting in order to obtain more information.*

Committee Reports:

Chair: Merline stated she did not go to the County meeting because of the wind storm; however information can be obtained online.

Maps: Nothing to report.

Updates on Parks & Lands and Bike Path: Hackbarth reported that he is waiting for the budget to pass so they can move forward.

Public Power: Hackbarth stated he hopes there is \$15,000 in the budget to move forward.

Surface and Groundwater Protection: Nothing to report.

Public Parking: Coulson reported that Baudhuin and Associates have received the signed proposal and will be starting on the proposed bid.

Attainable Housing: Nothing to report.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Set the Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled regular meeting is November 15, 2011.

Adjourn: *It was moved by Coulson and seconded by Hackbarth to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Maskell
Deputy Clerk