

TOWN OF GIBRALTAR PLAN COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012
7:00 P.M.
GIBRALTAR TOWN CENTER

Call to order: The regular meeting of the Gibraltar Plan Commission was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Linda Merline, chairman.

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

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

Approve minutes of last meeting: *It was moved by Hackbarth, seconded by Unkefer to approve the minutes of November 15, 2011 as amended. Motion carried.*

UW-Stevens Point Community Well Water Testing Program: Merline recapped previous discussions regarding the program and the recommendation from the November 15, 2011 meeting. Kevin Masarik, representative of the Center for Watershed Science and Education from UWSP, stated that the program does not make recommendations on what tiers of testing a community should have done, per Merline. UWSP testing tiers are as follows:

Tier 1: Cost \$49 and tests for nitrate, nitrite nitrogen, chloride, alkalinity, corrosivity, conductivity, coliform bacteria and ecoli.

Tier 2: Cost \$42 and tests for arsenic, lead and copper.

Tier 3: Cost \$27 and tests for triazines which include atrazine and several products it degrades too such as simazine, cyanazine and propazine.

Other costs to be covered by the processing fee would be for administrative processing time and transportation. A minimum cost of \$300 was given by the town office which would cover approximately 10 hours. Beth Hagen and Linda Merline have offered the balance of their office processing time as volunteer service. Participants could be contacted via e-mail and/or postcards at minimal cost. Advertising donated by DCEC is for 3 box ads in the Peninsula Pulse. The program will also be promoted in the town newsletter, local column in the Door County Advocate and an article in the Peninsula Pulse. Transportation of the samples to Stevens Point will be donated by Bob and Linda Merline. They have also volunteered to collect the samples from participants at the Town Center on the testing weekend. All costs other costs being considered a processing fee of \$8 will be recommended. A minimum of 40 participants are needed for the study to move forward. A tentative date of July 31, 2012 is slated for testing.

A letter dated January 19, 2012 from Masarik to the Gibraltar Town Board, speaks to open records concerns that the board may have. Masarik did not try to discount the concerns but reiterated key points on the program being primarily educational and strictly voluntary. Masarik stated that participating in the water testing program would not require a homeowner to contact a well driller or pump installer. If problems are identified through testing, any decision to follow up with corrective action is solely the responsibility of the homeowner. In the event that a homeowner hires a professional to perform work on their well, if a contractor identifies that the well and pressure system does not comply with the code in

effect at the time it was installed, it must be upgraded to the standards for new installation. If a well and pressure system complies with the code in effect at the time a well was installed, generally no upgrading is necessary. Supervisors Hackbarth and Sohns have expressed serious concerns regarding the potential misuse of the collected study information and the repercussions to property owners. A disclaimer could be used in conjunction with advertising. Unkefer stressed the volunteer aspect to the study, mapped locations being generalized and the names of the participants not being connected with the results.

It was moved by Merline, seconded by Unkefer to recommend to the Town Board that the residents be offered tiers 1 and 2 at a cost of \$91 and that we also recommend an \$8 service charge to cover any expenses by the town for a total cost to the participant of \$99. Motion carried with Hackbarth opposed.

Committee Reports:

Chair: Merline encouraged Commission and Town Board members to attend the January 31st Public Education meeting put on by Door County Planning and Zoning. Attendees held practice hearings at the last session which proved to be a positive educational piece. Updates to the Farmland Preservation Plan will also be given.

Maps: Nothing to report.

Updates on Parks & Lands and Bike Path: Nothing to report.

Public Power: Hackbarth stated the Town Board will be setting a date for an informational presentation from MEUW. Hackbarth encouraged both the Commission and members of the public to attend as this will be an opportunity for questions prior to the Town Board discussing a feasibility study.

Surface & Groundwater Protection: Nothing to report.

Public Parking: Nothing to report.

Attainable Housing: Nothing to report.

Sustainable Gibraltar: Hackbarth has noticed a shrinking population trend and asked Merline if a “brainstorming” meeting could be held to discuss ways to address the trend. The trend touches economic, housing, zoning and sustainable issues at a minimum.

Public Comment: None

Set the Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2012.

Adjourn: *It was moved by Hackbarth and seconded by Unkefer to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Hagen
Clerk