

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF
GIBRALTAR TOWN BOARD AND PLAN COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021
GIBRALTAR TOWN CENTER
4097 HIGHWAY 42, FISH CREEK WI 54212
6:00 P.M.**

Approved: March 3, 2021

Call to order: Steve Sohns called the Special Joint Meeting of the Gibraltar Town Board and Plan Commission to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll call/quorum: A quorum of each the Town Board and Plan Commission members were present.

Present: Steve Sohns, Bill Johnson, Tim Luetzgen, Jayson Merkel, Linda Merline, Brian Hackbarth, Don Freix, Paul Pillat and Tom Blackwood

Absent: Brian Merkel

Agenda/proper notice/adopt agenda: *Motion: (Johnson, J. Merkel) to adopt the agenda as presented. Carried*

Recommend and set 2021 Plan Commission goals:

Linda Merline, chairperson for the Plan Commission welcomed Paul Pillat to the commission.

Goal 1 Annual Joint meeting with the Town Board

Goal 2 Annual Joint meeting with Parks & Lands

Goal 3 Implement the Fish Creek Watershed Plan

- A. Fish Passage at the Culvert, Goal 2, Outcome 2.1:
Sara Lancaster has gotten this project moving again; it has now been approved. It is on the next commission agenda.
- B. Fish Passage at the Dam, Goal 2, Outcome 2.2:
Propose, same as last year, that when the fish passage and meander are underway to begin talks with the property owner about the dam design modifications.
- C. Restoring the Meander in Fish Creek Park Goal 2, Outcome 2.4 including raising and replacing the board walk crossings: US Fish & Wildlife and the DNR have just weighed in on what should happen there; there is some agreement at this point.
- D. Actively Support Parks & Lands Reforestation of FC Park, Goal 1, Outcome 1.5:
100 trees have been ordered and need planting. Brian questioned timing of the planting.
- E. Actively Support Parks & Lands Removal of Invasive Species & Replacement with Native Plants in Fish Creek Park, Goal 2, Outcome 2.7: Linda will be meeting with Parks and Lands to further support their work.
- F. Work to Raise Awareness of the Dangers of Coal Tar Asphalt Sealants to Ground & Surface Water and Promote the Use of Alternatives Known to be Safe: Steve Sohns found the use of coal tar asphalt sealants were not being used by the county highway department nor vendors he contacted. Don Freix suggested a simple informational article on the website regarding it.
- G. Actively Support & Encourage Park & Lands to Reduce and/or Eliminate Pesticide, Herbicide & Fertilizer Use in the Town Parks & Other Town Properties, Goal 1, Outcome 1.6: Parks & Lands is doing this and they have a plan.

Goal 4 Work with Gibraltar Schools to Plan/Carry Out 5th Grade Field Trip to FC Park: It has been done for 2 years It was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID. Vinnie Chomeau is the coordinator at the school. Hopefully, it will resume in 2021 when school returns to classroom instruction.

Goal 5 Request an Update from the County Sanitation Department on Oversight of Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS): This is an annual request.

Goal 6 Begin Work on 2024 Comprehensive Plan: Last updated in 2009. Commission to begin update of goals and objectives. Check into county assistance in mapping and on-the-ground watershed parcel identification.

Goal 7 Research/Evaluate/Pursue Town Zoning: Steve stated that this goal would be started once a new administrator begins.

Goal 8 Pursue Adjustment of County Zoning to Match the Vision of the Comprehensive Plan: Linda stated that depending on what happens with #7 will affect these issues.

-Outdoor Display Ordinance – It was omitted by the county. Bring up as a stand-alone ordinance to the Town Board.

-Conditional Use Update – Refresh and bring up again to Town Board.

-Home Business Update- Refresh and bring up again to Town Board.

-Short term rental ordinance – Steve recommended moving forward with an ordinance. Follow those communities that are going through this issue and noting ways to craft a successful ordinance. Brian asked if that becomes part of a larger conversation where residential neighborhoods stay “business free”. He further suggested our fire chief be part of the conversation for code enforcement.

Goal 9 Research/Make Recommendations on Community Housing Solutions for Seasonal Employee Housing/Year-round Family Housing:

Bill will be attending an Attainable Housing Conference via Zoom.

The Town doesn't have sufficient areas zoned for multiple family housing.

Zoning and infrastructure will be key per Brian.

Goal 10 Manage the Town's Green Tier Legacy Community Commitments:

Linda has been attending conferences.

Raise Awareness of Green Tier with committees, businesses, & non-profits

Add charging stations (? direct current) for electric vehicles in new public parking.

Partner with the County? Vinni Chomeau is chair of the County's Sustainability Committee.

Ongoing grant program to promote Green Tier Legacy with room tax funds.

Encourage participation by FCCA in program.

Goal 11 Gather Ideas/Recommend Action for Meeting the Town's Immediate Economic Needs:

High Speed Internet – Town has partnered with Charter Communications in applying for a WPS grant.

Steve stated the tower ordinance was relaxed by town.

Brian recommended a subcommittee be created to work on this goal.

Proposed Goal 12 Improved Communication with Residents

Move forward with the Communication Plan on the Town Website. Sara encouraged using a separate canvas for the Green Tier web page.

Linda would like increased newsletter type postings that highlight progress Plan commission goals etc.

Proposed Goal 13 Better Communication between the Town Board and the Plan Commission

Communication links will be changing with the new administrator.

Other Ideas

Steve Sohns – Commission to bring back text amendments and short-term rental ordinance to the town board.

Adjourn: *Motion: (Johnson, Luetzgen) to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. Carried*

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Hagen, Clerk

