

**TOWN OF GIBRALTAR
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF
GIBRALTAR TOWN BOARD AND PLAN COMMISSION
January 22, 2024
GIBRALTAR TOWN CENTER
4097 HIGHWAY 42, FISH CREEK WI 54212
6:00 P.M.**

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 the Town Board and Plan Commission members were present.

Present: Steve Sohns, John Selenica, Jayson Merkel, Linda Merline, Paul Pillat, Sara Lancaster, Wayne Kudick, and Tom Blackwood

Absent: Vinni Chomeau and Tom Birmingham

Agenda/proper notice/adopt agenda: *Motion: (Selenica, Merkel) to adopt the agenda as presented. Carried*
Motion to adopt the agenda (Lancaster, Blackwood) Carried

Update on 2023 Goals: Chair Merline for the Plan Commission updated the Town Board members on the completed 2023 goal and the progress on other goals. Goal 3 was completed on May 12, 2023, with the 5th Grade field trip to the creek it was a huge success. The Plan Commission spent a lot of time working on the comprehensive plan. Goal 10-Green Tier Ad Hoc was turned over to Parks and Lands. Chair Merline worked with town staff and figured out where to post all the annual reports on our town website. The fish ladder was completed in December 2022

Goals already underway: The restoration of the meander is still pending. The Plan Commission has grant money left from the fish ladder and we are looking into getting permission to use the rest of the grant money to work on the meander.

Routine annual goals: We did not have a meeting with Park and Lands in 2023. We are going to have a joint meeting with Parks and Lands in February 2024.

Recommend and set 2024 Plan Commission goals: Chair Merline presented the 2024 Plan Commission goals to the Town Board members.

Annual Joint Meeting with Town Board

- Review and Agree on PC Goals for 2024 (January)

Annual Joint Meeting with Park & Lands Committee

- Discuss Goals & Possible Shared Goals (February 2024)

Outdoor Display Ordinance

- Review, Simplify and Make a Recommendation hoping it will be ready next month.

Design Standards

- Research, Discuss, Draft & Make a Recommendation the Plan Commission will be working on this at the February 2023 meeting.

Implement the 2043 Comprehensive Plan: these are the goals that the Plan Commission thought should be pursued right away in 2024.

Goal 1.5: The Town's Dark Skies are Preserved & Sustained for All Current Residents, Visitors, & Future Generations

- Action 1.5a: Work to Minimize Light Pollution on Town Properties
- Action 1.5b: Provide Information to All Residents on the Problem of Light Trespass and the need to Eliminate Light Pollution on Private Property.

Goal 1.7: Support and Sustain Generational Family Farm Agricultural Heritage.

- Action 1.7e: Work with Local Farmers and Interested Citizens to Seek Ways to Preserve Large Tracts of Farmland for Future Agricultural Use. The goal is to try and promote farming and not have farmland divided into single homes. Looking for ways to help farmers explore what options are available. County zoning options are worth looking into.

Goal 2.1: The Historical Character of Fish Creek, Juddville and Maple Grove and Outlying Areas are Preserved.

- Work with Gibraltar Historical Association, Owners of Historical Buildings, and other Interested Citizens to Preserve the Historical Character of the Town. Action 2.1b
- Design Standards – Research, Discuss, Draft & Make a Recommendation. Action 2.1b

Goal 4.1: The Town Supports a Diverse Mix of Year-round and Seasonal Businesses

- Action 4.2e: Work with Door County Economic Development Corporation to Seek Ways to Diversify the Town's Economy.
- Action 4.1i: Work with Gibraltar High School to Expand Student Job Shadow Program to Include Other Town Positions

Goal 5.1: Develop/Maintain a Safe and Efficient Transportation System that Reflects the Town's Small Town Historical and Rural Character

- Action 5.1j: Make Pedestrian Cross Walks More Visible to Drivers

Goal 5.2: The Town's Public Parking Lot will Serve as a Hub of Transportation. This is an idea goal, getting together with interested parties, working with Visit Fish Creek to promote the parking lot and leaving their car and walking. Sara spoke about Destination Door County looking into a County wide plan, rather than each individual community having transportation options.

Goal 9.1: Communicate with Town Residents & Encourage their Engagement in Town Activities. Linda worked with Colleen from the town staff to add the Comprehensive Plan and the town newsletter to the town website and to work on adding more information to the town website regarding activities and volunteer opportunities. Travis stated that we have received a lot of positive feedback with the updates to the website.

- Action 9.1b: Contribute News Articles/Informational Updates to Town Newsletter, & Town Webpage.
- Action 9.1c: Work to Identify Volunteer Opportunities and Communicate Them to the Residents

Implement and Manage the Fish Creek Watershed Plan

Discussion occurred regarding the fish ladder only going as far as the meander crossing.

1. Protect & Improve Fish & Wildlife Habitat, Goal 2

- Repurposing Dead Ash Trees as Fish/Wildlife Habitat and/or Removal of Dead Ash Trees and Reforestation. Outcomes 2.3, 2.4, & 2.5
- Annual participation in the Shedd Aquarium's Sucker Migration Research Program: Better Understand Fish Reproduction. Outcome 2.8
- Remove Barrier to Fish at the Redmann Dam: Remove part of the dam according to The Town's Design by Miller Engineers & Scientists. Outcome 2.2 (Awaiting Purchase of Redmann Property)
- Remove Barrier to Fish at Meander Crossing: Raise & Replace Boardwalk Crossing Outcome 2.2

2. A Multi-Generational Partnership will Support a Healthy Fish Creek, Goal 3

- Annually Work with Gibraltar Schools (FOG) to Plan/Carry Out 5th Grade Field Trip to FC Park, Outcome 3.4

Implement and Manage Green Tier Legacy Community Membership

1. Actions Required by Green Tier

- Attend Green Tier's Quarterly Statewide Meetings in Person/Zoom
- Complete Town's GT Annual Report and Post on Town Website (Sustainability Tab)

2. Green Tier Goals

- Expand Green Tier Legacy Community Page on the Town Website Travis has been working on this.
- Manage the Green Tier Ad Hoc Committee According to its Guidelines. Travis is working on this.
- Consider Green Tier Ad Hoc Committee 2024 Recommendations. Linda is working on getting them going again this year.
2023 Recommendation: Add EV Charging Stations and Increase Signage to Promote Use of Public Parking Lot.

Goals Awaiting Staff Initiation

1. The Housing Needs That Have Been Identified by Door County Economic Development Corporation in Support of Seasonal & Year-round Workers, Young Families, & the Very Elderly, are Met with a Sufficient Supply of Safe, Quality, and Attainable, Non-Discriminatory Housing both Rental and Private Ownership. 2043 Comprehensive Plan, Goal 3.1, Actions 3.1a-g. Travis is working on this, when the Plan Commission is needed, Travis will let the commission know.
2. Pursue Town Zoning
3. Pursue Adjustment of County Zoning to Match the 2043 Comprehensive Plan Vision
 - Conditional Use Table
 - Home Business

Possible Future Involvement in Town Projects

- McKesson (Kinsey) Property
- Redmann Property (Beyond the Fish Creek Watershed Plan)
- Town Center Sidewalks/Storm Drains

Discussion occurred between the Town Board and the Plan Commission regarding the goals presented to the Town Board.

Motion: (Sohns, Selenica) to accept goals and move forward with the goals as presented.

Carried

Motion: (Merkel, Selenica) to adjourn at 7:10 PM Carried