

## TOWN OF GREEN BAY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

**DATE:** 7/15/14

**TIME:** 7:01 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Bob Boncher, Dawn Goodman, John Metzler, Jack Salewski, Mike Gilson, Dianne Jacobs

**ABSENT:** Gary Jonet

**Others Present:** None.

**APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES:** John Metzler opened the meeting and noted that the meeting notice was properly posted in 3 places. The June 17, 2014 Minutes were reviewed. Dianne Jacobs made a motion to accept the June 2014 minutes as presented. Bob Boncher seconded the motion. All approved.

### **(7:05 to 7:53 pm) ISSUE #1: Ordinance change addressing Beekeeping**

Planning Commissioner John Metzler reviewed what he had told the Planning Commission at June's meeting, that Beekeeping supplies were now being sold at Fleet Farm and the projected sales are expected to be high in light of the world-wide bee shortage/crisis and growing popularity of the hobby. He stated he had checked to see what surrounding communities have for zoning on the matter. Most either do not have anything concerning it or only allow it in rural areas. It was noted that DATCP had also suggested this be added to the zoning in their current recommendations for the Town's Working Lands Initiative Exclusive Agriculture Ordinance review. The Planning Commission discussed adding Beekeeping as a Conditional Use rather than a Permitted Use in both General and Exclusive Agriculture. John Metzler, Dianne Jacobs and Bob Boncher stated they felt very strongly it should be a Conditional Use because of public safety issues, in particular because some people have severe and/or deadly reactions to bee stings. Placement of such hives was a particular concern in this regard. Further discussion ensued. There was discussion as to how a beekeeper could control the area their bees would migrate to. There was also discussion about how someone who might be stung could actually prove the bee might have come from a beekeeping facility. Mike Gilson stated he did not think this type of agriculture should be treated any differently than the other permitted types of agriculture. Dawn Goodman stated that some larger cities around the country are actually allowing Beekeeping on rooftops in urban centers due to the shortage. She also pointed out that the State recommended it as a permitted form of agriculture in their review of the Town's current plan. She also stated that Gary Jonet had told her at the July Town meeting that he believed it should be a Permitted use. Jack Salewski stated his main concern was the placement of the hives. The Planning Commission took a vote and came up tied in their decision. It was decided that the Town Board would have to decide on the matter. The Planning Commission discussed an actual definition for Beekeeping and decided on the following wording to be added to the definitions area of the zoning ordinance: "Beekeeping. Keeping bees for the purpose of producing an income or livelihood."

**MOTION MADE BY:** Dianne Jacobs to recommend to the Town of Green Bay, Zoning Amendment #904-J, which would make the following changes to the Town of Green Bay's Code of Ordinance:

1. Add Beekeeping to Section III Zoning Ordinance Definitions (in alphabetical order), which would read as follows: Beekeeping. Keeping bees for the purpose of producing an income or livelihood.
2. Add Beekeeping to the A-1 Exclusive Agriculture zoning as a Conditional Use.
3. Add Beekeeping to the A-2 General Agriculture zoning as a Conditional Use.

**MOTION 2NDED BY Bob Boncher. AYES: 3 NAYS: 3. ABSTAIN: none. MOTION CARRIED.**

Votes were as follows: **Ayes:** Dianne Jacobs, Bob Boncher, John Metzler. **Nays:** Mike Gilson, Dawn Goodman, Jack Salewski.

The Planning Commission left a note for Town Clerk Debbie Mercier to add it to the August 12, 2014 Town Board's agenda. A Public Hearing was set for 8/12/14 at 6:50 pm.

### **(7:54 to 8:14 pm) ISSUE #2: Ordinance changes concerning Storm Water Management.**

Dianne Jacobs reported that at a recent meeting she attended on behalf of the Town, it was recommended that "**Storm Water Management**" needed to be added to the Town of Green Bay's "Section XIV. Planned Residential Development", to ensure that it is done to Brown County, DNR and Town specifications. She noted it should in particular include wording: "the Town may hire an engineer to ensure that Town Storm Water Management is done properly". The Planning Commission agreed this sounded like a wise change. All agreed that due to the County and State pressures to complete the Working Lands Initiative, this matter would need to be tabled until there is more time to devote to the matter.

**(8:15 to 9:05 pm) ISSUE #3: Continued work on the Working Lands Initiative, addressing the DATCP  
Cursory Review of the Exclusive Agriculture Ordinance**

The Planning Commission worked on the latest changes DATCP recommended, inserting wording clarifying who may run home businesses. The Planning Commission reviewed the wording and decided it was already addressed in another section, A. 3. The Planning Commission also removed wording concerning nonfarm residences in the certified district. In addition, in section K. 3., s. 60.61 (1), which is a requirement of s. 91.42(3) for prior nonconforming uses, was added. And finally, changes and additions to the Definitions section were addressed at this time. The Planning Commission then advised Planning Commission Secretary, Dawn Goodman, to make the adjustments discussed accordingly, review them with Dianne Jacobs once more due to the extensive nature of the changes, and then send them back for another review by DATCP.

**Other Business:** There was no other business to cover at this meeting.

**Date & Time of Next Meeting were set:** Tuesday August 19, 2014 at 7:00pm, if it is found necessary for the Planning Commission to meet.

**Motion to Adjourn Made by:** Bob Boncher, Jack Salewski seconded. **AYES 6 NAYS:** None. **Motion Carried.**

**Time of Adjournment:** 9:06 p.m.

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**Planning Commission Chairperson**

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**Planning Commission Secretary**