

June 4, 2019 5:30 PM

Call to Order: The Plan Commission Meeting was called to order by Chairman William Devine at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call: Chairman William Devine, George Beasley, Joe Duesler, Rich Jacobson, and LeAnna Rittmann were present. Carl Johnson and Lois Rethard were absent.

Others Present: Town Attorney John Miller, Town Engineer Robert Roth, Supervisor Craig Cawley, and Clerk Marlo Gustafson were also present as well as Attorney Jeffrey Clark, Land Surveyor Jim Grothman, Bill & Julie Kayartz, Jim Amend, Nancy Beasley, Tim Rosin, Mark Braska, Lyn and Nancy Van Epps, Dan Drew, Julie Vanderboom, and Jim Watson. This list is not all-inclusive, as there were many people who didn't sign in.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Beasley/Duesler to approve agenda as posted. All in favor by call of roll.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Motion by Duesler/Rittmann to approve the minutes of April 3, 2019 as presented. All in favor by call of roll.

Access Permit Application – Portage Country Club: Chairman Devine started out by explaining to the meeting attendees that this is not a public hearing, but that when the time is appropriate, he would allow anyone to speak for no more than 5 minutes. Town Engineer, Robert Roth then gave a brief history of the area and the reason for the Access Permit application. He also mentioned that golf cart usage on Lakeside Drive is an underlying condition that should be addressed. Currently the Town has Ordinance 392 allowing golf carts to cross but not travel along town roads. Town Attorney, John Miller then addressed the Commission and explained that if the Commission approved signing the agreement as presented, they would be approving golf cart travel along town roads, because the current agreement being presented clearly provides for golf cart usage along the Lakeside Drive subdivision, and this is not legal under the Town's Ordinances. Safety issues were discussed with golf carts traveling along town roads, at times in the wrong direction. He also explained that in the current application submittal, the Emergency Access point was moved further north to coincide with the existing golf cart path near the Portage Country Club's #3 green. Discussion ensued about moving the access point even further north for safety concerns and to shorten the impact on Lakeside Drive. Attorney Jeff Clark then addressed the attendees explaining the need for the Emergency

Access point for the very limited purpose of secondary emergency access if primary access is blocked, and he opined that golf cart usage was a pre-existing condition in the area. He further explained that the access point was moved further north due to the Town Engineer's legitimate concerns. Jim Grothman then spoke and referred to larger maps that he supplied for the meeting. He explained that it was the Town of Wyocena that asked Columbia County Planning & Zoning to put the second emergency access point requirement as part of the final plat. He also referred the Commission to a letter that he supplied from Pardeeville Fire Chief, Rick Wendt, that the fire department would have no problem using Lakeside Drive and the Country Club's golf cart path as secondary access if there is an emergency. In that letter, which was not provided to the Clerk for record, was Rick Wendt's request for Portage Country Club to trim the pine trees along the golf course for at least 12-foot clearance and to place 8 feet of gravel at least 6 inches deep on the corner by lot #1. Attorney Clark then spoke about revising the easement agreement. Bill Kayartz spoke about golf cart usage in the area. Jim Amend questioned the amount of feet we were talking about, to which Jim Grothman answered 150 feet. Mark Braska referred to the gate that was removed and mentioned that once they sell some lots, they will have signs put up prohibiting golf cart travel. He said they will actively keep golf carts off of the road. No one else in the audience had anything to add. Chairman Devine asked why the gate was removed and Jim Grothman answered that they cannot continue to lock and unlock the gate. Commission member George Beasley then referred to #8 of Jerry Foellmi's application narrative which stated the following: 8. The Town's concern about other existing access points from Lakeside Drive into the golf course is not part of this application. Golf carts and pedestrians will continue to enter the course along Lakeside Drive as they have for decades. Because the emergency access is at the existing cart path onto Lakeside Drive, it will not impact traffic movement. Beasley pointed out that particular point on the narrative was in conflict with promises being made that golf carts will not be allowed to use the access point. Attorney Clark said they would not have a problem with creating a more permanent barrier which is also in conflict with #8 of the application narrative. Chairman Devine explained that the Town, as always, wants to take any opportunity to make things better for the future, and the Town wants to minimize traffic going the wrong way on Lakeside Drive. He also mentioned that the emergency access point could be moved even further north to minimize traffic going the wrong way on Lakeside Drive. Attorney Clark then urged the Town to adopt an ordinance to allow golf cart travel on town roads. Attorney Miller reiterated that there is still a variety of things to discuss before referring the application to the Town Board. Motion by Duesler/Beasley to authorize Town Chair, Town Engineer, Town Attorney and Plan Commission member LeAnna Rittmann to meet with the consultants for the Portage Country Club to discuss remaining issues presented tonight. All in favor by call of roll.

Building Inspection Report: Report was not reviewed. An updated report will be available at the next meeting.

Other Reports: None.

Correspondence: None.

Adjourn: Motion by Duesler/Jacobson to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. All in favor by call of roll.

Marlo Gustafson, Recording Secretary