

ONEIDA COUNTY PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 29, 2022
MINOCQUA CENTER GYMNASIUM – 1st FLOOR
MINOCQUA CENTER BUILDING
MINOCQUA WI 54548

Members present: Scott Holewinski, Jack Sorensen, Bob Almekinder, Mike Timmons

Members absent: Ted Cushing

Department staff present: Karl Jennrich, Director; Todd Troskey, Assistant Director; Keith Cohrs, Zoning Technician; Scott Ridderbusch, Land Use Specialist; Deanna Tushoski, Administrative Support

Other county staff present: Michele Sadauskas, County Conservationist

Guests present: See sign in sheet.

Call to order. Chair Holewinski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

Approve the agenda. Motion by Jack Sorensen, second by Mike Timmons to approve the agenda. With all members present voting “aye”, the motion carried.

Public comment related to Article 9 of Chapter 9 the Oneida County Zoning and Shoreland Protection Ordinance. This relates to all aspects of the ordinance including administration, permits, forms and fees.

Gregg Walker, Lakeland Times spoke – should look for a reasonable way to protect water.

Billy Fried, County Board Supervisor spoke – would like to see permits packaged together if possible instead of multiple separate ones, staff to do more inspections mid-project instead of after when problems arise.

Jack Jurries, J J’s Acres spoke – would like affidavit to allow a patio instead of boathouse, if owner would like boathouse in future, the patio would need to be removed. Soil retention is a big issue. Would like retaining walls in 35-75’ area to be reconsidered to be allowed because he believes they can stop water runoff and erosion. Any rock wall that gets vegetation to grow should be considered earthen, not a certain percent of dirt to rock being the definition. Would like landscaping items allowed on zoning permit so one permit is issued at beginning of construction instead of landscaper having to come back in after construction to obtain an additional permit.

Rick Weir, Weir Contracting (sp?) spoke – doesn’t believe earthen walls are effective, believes retaining walls are effective for water runoff and erosion. Doesn’t like that boathouse permits are issued, but can’t build retaining walls and have issues getting equipment to boathouse area.

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Tom Jerow, Oneida County Property Owner spoke – need to find a balance for homeowners while protecting water. Believes we will have problems in the future if grass lawns take over shore areas, native vegetation retains more soil and water than grass lawns. Education program for owners showing the benefits of native vegetation would be helpful. Zoning should be about water quality not aesthetics. Should be more restrictions of what type of vegetation is allowed in the access and viewing corridor. Zoning needs more staffing to handle issues.

Joe Steinhage, Oneida County Property Owner spoke – Staff should walk the property before a permit is issued to discuss what plants/trees can be cut. Believes clear cutting is going to be big problem.

Brad Schillinger, Custom Caretaking & Landscaping spoke – would like a clear definition written of what is considered an earthen wall, including type of rock that can be used, flat vs. round.

Joe Krus, Custom Caretaking & Landscaping spoke – would like clarification of how much can be lifted on trees outside of view corridor, there used to be a percentage that could be cut. Recommends a permit for cutting trees in the future or all lakes will be clear cut.

Charlie Miller, Excavating & Stoney Creek Home & Garden spoke – There should be more information provided than just issuing a boathouse permit, need best management practices to help guide contractors how to perform the work for the boathouse to prevent erosion, many get permits, but don't know the best way to build the boathouse.

Jimmy Rein, Dick Lee Construction spoke – there are too many different forms required to obtain permit, process needs to be streamlined. Need more staff to handle amount of permits. Believes retaining walls should be allowed in 0-35', would prevent runoff issues. Doesn't like requirement to replace trees outside access and view corridor when removing dead/diseased/dying tree. Many don't realize that stump removal is not allowed when clear cutting.

Gregg Walker, Lakeland Times spoke – there are too many regulations that make it hard for local landscapers. Believes contouring prevents more runoff than native species. Rules are being overly restricting, need to find common ground with landscapers.

Public comments. None

Future agenda items. As discussed.

Adjourn. 10:57 a.m. There being no further matters to lawfully come before the committee, Chair Holewinski adjourned the meeting.

Chair, Scott Holewinski

Planning & Zoning Director, Karl Jennrich