

**TOWN OF CRESCENT
MINUTES FOR
TOWN PLAN COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024
7:00 P.M., CRESCENT TOWN HALL**

Call to Order: Chairman Pazdernik called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Crescent Town Hall. The meeting has been properly posted and distributed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting law and the facility is handicap accessible.

Committee members present: Michael Pazdernik, Chair; David Holperin, Secretary; Jim Altenburg, Connie Anderson, Niina Baum, Jonathan Jacobson, and Lindsay Novak. **Absent:** None
Additional attendees: Robb Jensen, Town Chair, and four other community residents.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Holperin, second by Altenburg. Aye: all. Nay: none. Motion carries.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 21, 2024 meeting made by (Niina), second by Jacobson. Aye: all. Nay: none. Motion carries.

Discussion/Decision: Ordinance Amendment to change the present 5-acre minimum residential lot size to a minimum lot size requirement to be determined. [Chair Pazdernik offered that we take this item first for the benefit of the guests at the meeting.]

As a committee, we should clarify the prior recommendation on lot size by adding an ordinance (i.e. resolution) number to it. **Motion made to approve an ordinance number, Resolution 04-03** by Jacobson, second by Altenburg. Aye: all. Nay: none. Motion carried.

Discussion/Decision: TAP Grant for the Town of Crescent Bike & Pedestrian Project (where do we go from here?).

A brief history of the TAP Grant was discussed. Ryan Petersen, a resident, had come before our committee a year ago to encourage us to seek out a grant that would allow for a study of opportunities for future “silent sport” improvements through our township. At that prior meeting we were informed that there are many uncompleted, but nearby trails that have the potential to make seamless routes through Oneida County. Mr. Petersen had suggested the grant might provide the capital to fund future meetings with the Wisconsin DOT, neighboring townships, and even some existing interested partnerships, as well as create a draft of a long-term plan. The grant would require that the township has to make a financial commitment on its own of at least \$16,000 in order to secure up to another \$64,000 in the grant, plus up to an additional \$6,000 for writing the grant. Originally Mr. Petersen was going to spearhead the grant writing process (he indicated it might be a case of pro bono at the time) because it is a part of what he does professionally, but shortly after his offer was made it was rescinded due to a potential conflict of interest. So, this meeting tonight was to explore whether or not our committee and the town board should continue to advance activities to secure the grant.

There was a robust discussion that followed. Town Chair Jensen led off the discussion by posing the question of whether our committee or anyone in the township would spearhead the project, find funds for the match, and find others who would have enough interest to be compelled to see the project through.

One of the community attendees at the meeting questioned why we should spend any money on trails when what we really need (in his opinion) is simply better maintenance on the roads to make them more bike-friendly.

Novak suggested that the grant should be pursued as one of our core objectives of the newly-created town plan was to explore the expansion of silent sport infrastructure and potentially make investments in trails that could also be appealing to our tourism economy.

Nearly all committee members had opinions to offer as well as the aforementioned attendee. The discussion ultimately concluded that we need more information. We should reach out to surrounding communities that have already built out trail systems to learn more about their earlier planning, how they secured the funding, and how long the process took. We also verbalized that it would take an extraordinary effort by someone (or an ad hoc committee) within the township to spearhead such an endeavor.

Anderson then mentioned that the Oneida County board had included addressing a trail system in their long-term plan as well, and that we should be aware of that information.

Chair Jensen suggested it would behoove our committee to also find a donor(s) to fund the share of the cost to the township.

The attendee brought up the issue of whether E-Bikes should qualify as a “silent sport” since they are powered by a motor. The committee recognized the comment and make a note of that.

Jacobson presented the concept of developing a plan via multi-phasing, wherein we may want to move forward in smaller steps in the most sensible manner that also allows to develop a learning curve as we move forward from one phase to the next.

Holperin made a recommendation that, with enough sufficient input at this meeting, our committee members reach out to gather more information from our neighboring townships and communities where we may know someone involved in their progress on their trail systems and then report back to the committee at our April meeting. (Baum and Holperin offered to reach out). At our next meeting, and after new information is shared, that if the committee then feels this is an undertaking we want to move forward with, that we then set a deadline for finding a donor(s) to come up with the necessary \$16,000. Further, that we also reach out to Ryan Petersen to gather any other useful information concerning the grant that he can offer (Jacobson volunteered).

Next Meeting: April 24th.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by [Niina], second by Novak.

Aye: all. Nay: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.