

Planning & Zoning Committee

Planning Meeting

March 13, 2009

PRESENT: Supervisors Egan, Brennand, Diakoff, Sievert, Thomson. Jerry Bougie, Brian O'Rourke, Kathy Larson, Cary Rowe.

1. Minute Approval – February 2, 13, and 25, 2009.

Motion by T. Egan to approve minutes as presented. Seconded by J. Sievert. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Review and possible action on proposed Wind Energy Ordinance.

J. Bougie explained the proposed wind energy ordinance, and stated the Committee had a number of options: 1) take the proposed ordinance to public hearing in its entirety. 2) take only the non-commercial wind farm portion to public hearing. 3) fold the proposed ordinance into the comprehensive re-write of the zoning ordinance.

C. Thomson expressed concern with only taking the non-commercial portion to public hearing, and stated that since we have an ordinance that includes commercial wind farms that we should take the complete ordinance to public hearing.

J. Sievert inquired about a rumored wind energy ordinance being done by the State.

J. Bougie stated that the ordinance being referred to only addressed commercial wind farms at this time.

B. O'Rourke stated the only thing the ordinance didn't include at this time was language addressing solar energy, and language stating that the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department will be part of the approval process, as they have expressed concern with installing towers that may interfere with their communication systems. He suggested including the proposed ordinance on the June public hearing, allowing enough time to add the aforementioned language and have another review by the Committee.

Motion by J. Diakoff to proceed with the proposed wind energy ordinance in its entirety at the June public hearing. Seconded by C. Thomson. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Dobberstein Zoning Change effective date extension – Town of Winchester.

C. Rowe gave a status report to the Committee with regard to the zoning change. The applicant has yet to resolve the location of a property line, and they are asking for a six month extension.

Motion by J. Sievert to approve a six month extension. Seconded by C. Thomson. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Update on Comprehensive Revision of County Zoning Ordinance Project.

J. Bougie stated that there have been two meetings of the steering committee that was formed to assist in the ordinance re-write, and that both meetings have gone well. There has also been positive input and feedback from the majority of the members. However, the agendas have only included topics to discuss, not actual ordinance language at this time.

There was no further discussion on this item.

5. Report of proposed changes to Farmland Preservation Program.

J. Bougie discussed the proposed legislation language regarding changes to the current farmland preservation program, and that it states that all Counties "shall" adopt a plan, but only "may" adopt an ordinance. He discussed the potential impact to Town and County future land use plans as a result of having to adopt a new farmland preservation plan, and that they would most likely all need to be revised to include the plan. He also stated that the deadline to adopt a plan and subsequent ordinance was unclear at this time, but he had placed a phone call to Keith Foye of DATCP to confirm the dates.

P. Brennan requested that the Planning and Zoning Department provide a recommendation to the Committee that can be taken and presented to the Legislative Committee.

There was no further discussion on this item.

6. Motion to Adjourn

Motion by J. Sievert to adjourn. Seconded by T. Egan. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.