

Richland/Pulaski Comprehensive Planning Meeting
December 7, 2017, H. Douglas Barclay Court House

Present: Dawn Holynski, Chair; Shawn Doyle, Secretary, Maureen Anderson, Donna Gilson. Jan Tighe, Pulaski Village Board. Absent: vacant seat. Guest: Chris Stewart, USDA

The October 5th and November 2, 2017 minutes were approved upon motion of Donna Gilson, 2nd by Dawn Holynski, all in favor none opposed.

Dawn noted that the Pulaski Community Fund reached their goal for full match. Dawn serves on the board and believed the extra push to receive donations was due in large part to chamber of commerce advertisement. Dawn wanted to publicly thank the Chamber. Shawn announced that Regional Planning has worked with the Village to help two property owners apply for Main Street funding. The dance studio building (Old Kinney's) and the old Niagara Mohawk building on Lewis Street have applied. Discussion on the failure of the Village to get the zoning updates down. Jan said this was her biggest frustration as a Trustee. The Town will vote on their new zoning at the January meeting.

Committee Member replacement: Discussion on the vacancies. Melissa Wadkinson and Jaimie Foster are two suggestions. This is a village seat. Melissa lives in the Village, Jamie in the town. Village meeting is Monday December 11, Town is December 12.

Web Presence in Rural America: Much discussion in November about this, still many questions remain. Maureen and Dawn spoke to Christina Estonia, very knowledgeable. Dawn suggests the Town and Village should have a joint website that is tourism based. Maureen said that the examples Christina showed her were fantastic and very residential friendly. Both the town and village leaders like their web sites. We need to look at making them both more user friendly we feel.

Wind Draft Law: Dawn spoke on the draft by John Droz. Dawn and Shawn both spoke on John's background, and the value of his research. Dawn sent this out by email. Jan asked about a microgrid, how can wind play a part in this potentially? Shawn raised the issue of Redfield's core forest being threatened, as well as scenic vistas in our town. Transmission lines are an additional concern to support and propose wind. This law would address all of these. Donna still needs to review it. Shawn suggested as soon as all read this we should recommend this to the town. Donna cited the fast-paced change in the green energy, and how the towns windmill is obsolete and not effective. Jan talked about the advances in battery technology. Maureen asked questions on some definitions in John's document on native forest vs conservation area. We would like to have John speak to us in the spring, but all need to read and understand the proposed law. Dawn wants to give it to the boards, lawyers and the Zoning officers after we fully understand it. In 2009 the town of Richland adopted a local law, there was general agreement then that residential wind was acceptable, and industrial wind not desirable.

Jan cited Aurora has a community solar farm, all agreed this is a good idea. Town and Village met in winter 2017 with Chris Carrick to discuss this. Town is leaps ahead on this Jan said as the wellfield site in Richland Hamlet has been examined. Councilman Yerdon expressed concern about the end of life cleanup of the fields, there has been no answer to this. Donna asked this at one meeting and there was no full direct answer. Toxic metals are present in these panels, and could leach into the sands at well site.

Maureen read from a website on what happens to green energy devices at end of life. Many worries cited.

Chris talked about the Green energy work USDA does. Geothermal, solar, digester etc. Chris spoke on some issues that have arisen with the digesters. Chris is open to fielding questions and passing them on to the agency for answers. Jan wants to see us work to a municipal power pool that will make our region attractive. Dawn said true, but need to look at decommissioning worries. Discussion on plastic bags.

Dawn brought up infra-sound. In the news about Cuba. Shawn said the Iberdrola people tried to debunk this as an issue in Redfield. Droz cites it as a major concern. Who would/will monitor?

Underground transmission lines are most desirable in any law for wind farms. Shawn will get a larger map of town with property lines for Dawn and the committee.

(December 7, 2017 Compo Plan, page 2)

Other: Shawn reported that the Village Planning Board is informally using the proposed Historic District. PROP is doing sign and even some light architectural review for downtown projects on a case by case basis. So far this has worked well, and the businesses who are applying are very pleased with the process. (LD's and The Former LD building are recent ones.) We are "hopeful" Scott Borzer who owns three storefronts on west side of Jefferson St. will allow people to dress his windows of the vacant places (with historic or seasonal scenes) like Debbie Palm has done with the Peoples Bank building. Rich Brodeur has had good conversations with this owner of late.

Debbie Palm is buying Walkers Cleaners, and will continue to run, and also expand Tux and gown business.

Jan talked about the problem with garbage out front of stores. Debbie Palm talking to people about her building.

Added to the list of vacant buildings: the Clark-Thompson house at 19 Lake St. This is a National Register house, Shawn toured it today with the realtor and an interested prospective buyer. We need to be concerned about these structures and their fate. Lew Watson has long kept a list of vacant buildings that will be in our comp plan.

The Fernwood bridge opened on December 6, 2017. Dawn wants to get signs for Fernwood. Shawn said that we could get banners too perhaps in a grant.

Discussion on the land bank, it was expressed that we are shortchanged in being part of the last 1/3 in County structure.

Jan moved to adjourn, Donna seconded. All in favor, none opposed 7:22pm

Next Meeting Thursday, January 4, 2018:

6 PM H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse