

Town of Merton
Plan Commission Meeting
Minutes of July 17th, 2024

- Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Klink at 5:30 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Klink
- Minutes of the June 19th, 2024, Plan Commission Meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Commissioners Siepmann/Good. Motion carried.

Present: Chairman Klink, Commissioners Griffin, Jensen, Morris, Siepmann, and Good, Attorney Van Kleunen, and Deputy Clerk Claas

Absent: Planner Haroldson and Commissioner Queoff

Also Present: Matt Schneider and Matt Hall

Old Business: None

New Business:

Request for an Exception to the Height Regulations as an Exception per 17.21(2)(e) – Subject to the Approval of the Plan Commission – Requested by Highpoint Design Build Group on Behalf of Matt Schneider – Tax Key MRTT0378-024 – Commissioner Siepmann recused himself for this agenda item. Matt from Highpoint Design Build Group stated the Schneiders would like to build an outbuilding. The detached garage would be approximately 52' x 36' and another 21' x 36' for a covered attached porch. They reduced the height down to 25' and they are well within the setbacks. The exterior will match the existing house and will have the same color siding and the same color roof. The existing shed is to be relocated.

A motion to approve the increased height for Matt Schneider's building on his Tamron Ridge property with the condition that they submit building plans to the Building Inspector for final construction was made by Commissioners Jensen/Griffin. Motion carried.

Resolution Recommendation to the Town Board to Vacate a Portion of Forest Drive as Requested by Andrew and Michelle Miner on Behalf of the Miner's and the Town of Merton – Chairman Klink said this is another one of those roads that has quirky little things with it, and this will clean it up. Commissioner Griffin said this is one of these things on a little lake road that whenever the opportunity arises, the Town tries to take advantage of it. It will go back to the 25' right-of-way on that side and it will match in with everybody else.

Commissioner Griffin said a piece will go to Evert, the Miner's will get a piece, and he believes the Planner is still talking with Moncrieff about whether he wants to redo his certified survey map for the little triangle on his because he has that little tail that sticks down.

Attorney Van Kleunen said the Planner should inform them that they need to submit their certified survey before the Town Board will actually take official action on the resolution.

A motion to recommend to the Town Board that the Town vacate a portion of Forest Drive as requested by Andrew and Michelle Miner on behalf of the Miner's and the Town of Merton was made by Commissioners Siepmann/Good. Motion carried.

Recommendation to the Town Board to Amend 15.08 to Eliminate the Word Grass/Grasses from Section 15.08(7)(g) and 15.08(7)(h) – Commissioner Siepmann said he likes this because there are a lot of

prairies that are pretty much weed free. Chairman Klink said prairie grasses are not meant to be cut and that is a problem that Griffin has to address. Commissioner Griffin said that is why weeds are still left in the ordinance. A lot of people who have cut their grass for years now with the costs rising are just cutting back on mowing it. The people who have prairies with wildflowers; they're not going to mow it and keep it at eight inches. Weed problems will still be addressed.

Attorney Van Kleunen questioned if the Town has a circumstance where there is a deteriorating house that has a lot of issues, and it looks like it's almost abandoned and on top of it, and the grass hasn't been cut. Is the Town okay with it. Commissioner Griffin said there is one in the Town and has a lot more than just weeds, it has brush, and it hasn't been mowed in three or four years. Attorney Van Kleunen asked if the Town is okay with that circumstance that if the Town was trying to get them in compliance, the Town would deal with all the other things they are in violation with. Commissioner Griffin said the Town would also go after that because they do have noxious weeds. Attorney Van Kleunen said he doesn't want the Town to get into a situation where maybe it's less noxious weed, and a lot of grass. Commissioner Griffin stated grass is only going to grow about 12 inches and then anything higher than that is usually going to be a weed or a bush. He thinks there is still enough teeth in the ordinance that the Town can enforce it.

Attorney Van Kleunen said the Planner should put this in ordinance format to amend this to take it to the Town Board.

A motion to recommend to the Town Board to amend the Section 15.08 to eliminate the word grass or grasses from sections 15.08(7)(g) and 15.08(7)(h) was made by Siepmann/Jensen. Motion carried.

Planner Report Marilyn Haroldson – No Report

County Board Supervisor Report Richard Morris – stated the County is continuing to remodel the courthouse that should be done by 2027. They're doing a lot of work on Bluemound Road, and they are starting another phase on Moorland Road further south, and they are starting to work on the budget.

DPW Director Report Paul Griffin – stated the work on the Oconomowoc River Conservancy will probably start next week and will be wrapped up by the end of the month.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioners Morris/Siepmann. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly R Claas
Deputy Clerk