

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, January 4, 2010

Administrative Center – Room 3220

3:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Meyer, Don Bina, David Hansen, Bob Keil, Beverly Mach, Dennis Manthei, Marilyn Pedretti, Tina Wehrs

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Jeff Bluske, Charles Handy, Bryan Meyer, Gregg Stangl, Margaret Norden, Mike Weibel, Vicki Twinde-Javner, Steve O'Malley

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Don Meyer called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 30, 2009

MOTION by Pedretti/Keil to approve Minutes from the November 30, 2009, meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATION OF WRIGHT FARM AS A LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORIC SITE.

The Resolution calls for designation under Chapter 23 of the General Code. Vicki Twinde-Javner, chair of the Historic Sites Preservation Commission, spoke about the home's unique construction and attributes. She reported that the nomination was done in conjunction with the current homeowner. The designation, if approved, will be recorded with the Register of Deeds. **MOTION** by Pedretti/Manthei to approve the Resolution Re: Designation of Wright Farm as a La Crosse County Historic Site. **Motion carried unanimously.**

REPORT FROM HISTORIC SITES PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Vicki Twinde-Javner reported on the Historic Sites Preservation Commission activities. The Commission was created by county ordinance, and is one of only two in the state to be certified by local government. It meets monthly, and deals with preservation issues outside of the City of La Crosse. Its projects include awarding grants for qualified projects, publishing brochures and a historic properties survey, designating properties for historic preservation, and responding to requests for information and advice. She said that under the current ordinance, designations are honorary, but do give some weight to applications to the National Registry. They are currently working with Corporation Counsel and Zoning to revise the ordinance so property owners would at least have to notify the Commission if a designated property is to be altered or destroyed. She answered questions about the differences between the Commission and area historic societies, and between the Commission and the Preservation Alliance that deals with properties within the City of La Crosse.

RESOLUTION FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD

Charlie Handy explained that Greenfield adopted their town plan at its December 30, 2009, board meeting. **MOTION** by Manthei/Keil to approve the Resolution for the Amendment of the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Greenfield. **Motion carried unanimously.**

UW-EXTENSION WRITTEN REPORTS

Handouts were provided. There were no questions.

REVIEW & APPROVE THE CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Gregg Stangl reported that the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's new Working Lands Initiative will update the current Farmland Preservation Program. It will change the former method of basing tax credits on the participant's income and annual

property tax liability to a flat dollar per acre rate. Participants must be in an area zoned and certified for farmland preservation and be in full compliance with agricultural performance standards and prohibitions within five years. Stangl explained that identifying farms and validating compliance will maximize staff resources. One of the obstacles the Land Conservation Department faces is that the Wisconsin Department of Revenue does not release the names of farm owners that receive tax credits. He proposed a system to streamline the procedure, as follows: Introduction letter; Program Participant Verification; Notice of Noncompliance; Conservation Compliance Deadline; Notice of Nonparticipation. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the requirements, how applicants that are non-compliant will be weaned out, and how the Department of Revenue will be notified of non-compliance. Jeff Bluske added that the Zoning Department's GIS system could help identify properties.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Zoning ordinance update
Census update

RECESS

MOTION by Keil/Pedretti to recess until the public hearing. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting recessed at 4:26 p.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting. Margaret Norden, Recorder