

Town of Menomonie Plan Commission Report for 2013 March 7, 2014.

The Plan Commission held seven monthly meetings in 2013. This compares to nine in 2012 and eleven in 2011. There were no meetings in March, April, May, August, and November. With the Board's permission, we continued work on other township needs. We thank the Board for support and encourage the Board to continue to be proactive in planning for the future.

As chairman I would like to recognize the effort and time put in by the other Commission members: Sally Casper, Bob Colson, Karen Groepper, Neil Koch, Earl Wildenberg, and Marty Ondruss. I am grateful for their cooperation and effort. Thanks also to Leslie for her attendance at the meetings. Special thanks to departing member Karen Groepper for her work on the commission. She has been there from the beginning and we'll miss her.

CSM's

There were requests for five new CSM's this year, all of them "fast track". There was only one new CSM in 2012. There were six CSM's in 2011, and eight in 2010.

Ordinances

This year we modified the "groundwater recharge ordinance" to give it more flexibility.

Zoning

We have been working to understand the new county zoning ordinance. Three main goals of the town's rezone work are to concentrate residential development nearer the city where there facilities may be more available, to preserve rural lands, and to locate commercial zones in areas that are appropriate.

Comprehensive Plan

Work on the comprehensive plan has continued throughout the year, including the months where there were no meetings. The two Stout students completed their work. First semester Joe Conerton gathered the data for element "a" and edited it. Second semester Alyssa Quilling completed the mapping component. Working with the folks at Stout was a productive and enjoyable endeavor. Thanks to faculty Jim Handley and Tom Pearson for helping us out on this project. As of this report 8 of the 9 elements have been rewritten. The commission is in the process of reviewing/editing the goals and objectives for each element. Completion is planned for late 2014.

Going Forward

At least two time consuming issues face the Commission and Board in 2014.

- The Commission will continue to work on the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that our ordinances and Plan are compatible, that the language continues to promote Township goals, and that the data in the Plan is current and meets the state standards.
- We hope to be able to finalize our rezone of the Township by mid summer this year.

Potential problems

The state legislature has pending legislation that would make it more difficult for local governments to regulate growth.

Mike Kneer
Plan Commission Chair