

MANITOWISH WATERS PLANNING COMMISSION

Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing Minutes

August 1, 2017

Held as a Joint Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing with the MW Town Board
Manitowish Waters Community Center

Town Board Chair John Hanson called the public hearing to order at 7:17 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Bauers, Becker, Hoehn, Hanson, Kramer

Absent: Sleight, Johns

Public Visitors: Sign-up sheet attached to these minutes

Chair Hanson read into the record the legal notice as posted June 30, 2017 and published as two insertions in the Lakeland Times.

Hanson opened the hearing by providing a synopsis of the revision process for the Comprehensive Plan update, which started in early 2016.

Question from the Gene Wilberg about whether the town has looked into charging stations for electric vehicles.

The entire set off Comprehensive Plan maps was on display and Hanson invited all to take a few minutes to view them.

Plan Consultant Bruce Mommaerts opened his presentation by discussing the relationship between the Plan language/mapping and the public survey conducted in 2016. Discussion touched on topics such as agriculture issues, home-based businesses, employee housing, mini-storage, antique malls, additional tourist lodging, encouraging business expansion, commercial strip development, minimum sizes for residences, more housing development on-water vs. back lots, town-approved construction standards for manufactured homes, natural resource protection, and design review standards for commercial buildings.

Discussion on seasonal vs. permanent residents, and seasonal residents vs. tourists and their effect on the economy.

Discussion on economic development issues, including internet connectivity and the business incubator.

Discussion on emergency services, aging populations, and net population loss when births are compared to deaths.

Discussion on short term residential rentals.

Discussion on ATV/UTV routes and the public survey results, the plan language on the topic, and the distinction between routes and trails and multi-use trail networks.

Discussion on encouraging seasonal residents to not only buying locally their personal items and services, but also their business services, as many are still actively running businesses.

As there was no further testimony, Chairman Hanson declared the joint public hearing closed at 9:14 P.M.