Town of Barre Planning Commission

Date: November 5, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Barre Town Hall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members in attendance:

- Kathy Shay
- Heidi Schwarz
- Terry Logging
- Don Fruit
- Will Schomberg

Approval of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Heidi to approve the agenda and previous meeting minutes from October 6, 2026.
Second by Terry.
Motion carried.

Public Comment - none

Old Business

Building Inspector Discussion – Bud Raymer

Don provided an update regarding his discussion with Building Inspector Bud Raymer and shared proposed redline revisions to Chapter II of the Building Code for further review. The revised document will be retained as a working document for the Commission's continued review.

It was noted that the State of Wisconsin updated its building code requirements in 2008. Much of the permitting process is handled at the county level; however, the Commission discussed the importance of retaining certain permitting requirements at the town level to maintain awareness of new construction and updates to existing properties.

The Commission also discussed the need for the Town to establish a Certificate of Occupancy process. One example discussed was ensuring that new construction is properly documented so that services such as garbage collection can be established.

Town Insurance Coverage

The Commission discussed the need to review the Town's required insurance coverage and determine whether the existing amount adequately protects the Town.

Updated Fee Table

The Commission continued to recognize the need for the Town Board to review and take action on the updated fee table. A draft is in the works.

New Business

La Crosse County Technical Advisory Committee – Fox Hills Addition

Don provided an update on the La Crosse County Technical Advisory Committee meeting held at Barre Town Hall on October 26, 2026. Don facilitated the meeting. Separate notes from that meeting are available for reference.

The Commission reviewed the proposed Fox Hills Addition.

Discussion included the proposed outlots and the Town's potential responsibility for their future maintenance. It was noted that the Town Board is not interested in acquiring another park at this time. John, a Town Board member, indicated that the Town would prefer to have sufficient space available for snowplowing and snow storage. Outlots located at the ends of cul-de-sacs were discussed as a preferred option.

The Commission also discussed the relationship between outlots, water retention areas, and watershed considerations, noting the importance of coordinating these areas within the overall development plan.

Will made a motion to recommend to the Town Board that cul-de-sacs have a minimum paved radius of 45 feet to allow fire trucks to have adequate room to turn around. Second by Heidi. Motion carried.

It was noted that the proposed development could generate an estimate of approximately 300–350 vehicle trips per day on the road.

Don reported that the next County meeting is anticipated to take place in January or February 2027. The Town could tentatively expect the proposal to come before the Town around March 2027.

Kathy suggested that the Planning Commission and Town Board hold a joint workshop to review the proposal in greater detail.

Chapter III – Subdivision Code Review

The Commission began its review of Chapter III of the Town's ordinances, which addresses subdivision requirements.

The Commission identified several areas requiring additional review. The definitions section was noted as needing careful review by an attorney to ensure clarity and consistency.

Don requested that the Commission return to Section 3.02, Subsections A and B, for further discussion.

The Commission also discussed requesting that La Crosse County review the Town's subdivision ordinance for consistency with county requirements. Don will contact the County to determine what review services may be available. If the County does not provide a formal comparison, Don will request a copy of the applicable county ordinance so the Commission can conduct its own comparison.

Fox Hills Addition Site Visit

Don will reach out to coordinate a potential site visit of the Fox Hills Addition on a Saturday morning in December. The Commission expressed interest in viewing the proposed development area, particularly locations that could potentially be suitable for a park or other usable open space. Further details will be provided once arrangements have been made.

Road Standards and Design Review

The Commission reviewed road design drawings prepared by Heidi Schwarz (Exhibit A).

Discussion included the following road construction and design considerations:

- A minimum pavement thickness of 3 inches was discussed, with 4 inches preferred.
- A proof-rolling requirement should be considered.
- The Town has the authority to request soil borings to determine appropriate road construction requirements, and the Commission discussed the importance of exercising this authority when appropriate.
- Heidi recommended a 4:1 ditch slope.

Don will research road standards used in similar subdivisions throughout La Crosse County for comparison and future discussion.

Board Member Concerns and Comments - none

Next Meeting - TBD

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Don.
Second by Heidi.
Meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.