

Date: 08/04/2026

Time: 7:02 PM

Location: Barre Town Hall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Members in attendance:

- Kathy
 - Heidi
 - Terry
 - Don
 - Will
-

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Don to approve the agenda and meeting minutes from 6-2-2026.

Second by Terry.

Motion carried.

Old Business

Data Center Discussion

Don provided a summary of discussions from the La Crosse County Data Center Study Committee. He noted that experts who were expected to attend the July county meeting were unable to do so.

Discussion followed regarding potential data center development. Concerns were raised about electrical power requirements, zoning considerations, and the varying types of data center facilities. It was noted that some data centers are housed in shipping-container-style units while others consist of large permanent buildings, and that a single approach may not be appropriate for all types of facilities.

It was noted that additional discussion is expected at the next county meeting.

Planning Commission Members on Town Website

Don noted that the town website already includes a section for staff members. It was agreed that Planning Commission member names will be added to the website.

New Business

Subdivision and Land Use Review Checklist

The Commission discussed creating a standardized checklist for reviewing future subdivision, land use, and zoning requests.

Discussion included lessons learned from previous developments, including Holmgren Drive, and the importance of reviewing drainage, watershed impacts, and long-term infrastructure needs early in the review process.

The proposed checklist includes the following items:

- Verify current zoning.
- Verify minimum lot size requirements. (Lot size does not include the road right-of-way, measured as 33 feet from the roadway centerline.)
- Verify minimum lot width of 100 feet.
- Confirm driveway design provides a relatively flat approach for approximately the first 20 feet to minimize water runoff and gravel washing onto the roadway.
- Review watershed and floodplain impacts for the proposed development.
- Review any applicable restrictive covenants and determine who is responsible for enforcement, noting that the Town Board cannot enforce private covenants.

- Determine proposed snow storage locations.
- Verify that cul-de-sacs meet applicable design standards, including an approximately 80-foot paved turnaround with an additional 10-foot radius.
- Review erosion and sediment control plans.
- Consider whether a traffic impact study should be required to evaluate additional traffic and potential impacts to town roads, including future maintenance costs.
- Review soil boring information for proposed roads to help ensure long-term roadway durability.
- Consider bonding or warranty requirements for street improvements.
- Verify that applicable town ordinances have been provided to the applicant.

The Commission also discussed recommending that the Town Board review the current application fee schedule to determine whether updates are appropriate.

Commission members agreed to review additional town ordinances before the next meeting to identify additional items that may improve the checklist.

Board Member Concerns and Comments

The Commission agreed to reserve time at the end of each meeting for concerns and comments.

Next Meeting

The next Town Board meeting will be held on August 18, 2026.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on September 1, 2026.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Kathy.

Second by Terry.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.