

Barre Planning Commission

May 5, 2026 7:00 pm

Members:

Chair: Don Fruit, **Vice Chair.** Kathy Shay, **Secretary** William Schomberg, Terry Logging, Heidi Schwarz

Public attendees:

Ken Schlimgen, Joseph Jakusz, Dennis and Mary? Biro, Fred Hilby, Jim Christianson

Call to Order: Don Fruit called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Secretary's Report- William Schomberg

- There was no report to review. This is the first meeting

Appoint Planning Commission officers

- Don, as acting Barre Town Board Chair, appointed Kathy Shay as the Barre Planning Commission Chair.
- Don himself was nominated as Vice Chair. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.
- Will Schomberg was nominated as Secretary. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.
- Heidi Schwarz and Terry Logging were recognized as the remaining sitting members of the Barre Planning Commission.
- All newly appointed members read the Oath of Office tonight.
- This committee will meet the first Tuesday of the month.
- Kathy asked for identification cards in the event that we need to do site visits or identify ourselves to needed resources.

Public Comment

- Joe Jakusz provided a powerpoint that was referenced during the meeting displaying the proposed Paul Schams development west of Fox Hollow Drive. He pointed out several areas he has of concern regarding allowing this Base Farm Tract to be rezoned residential. Some of his concerns were as follows
 - According to the County GIS he provided, pieces of this property are currently not developable due to slope, managed forest designation (not sure I'm stating this correct?).
 - Terry asked if he had a vested interest in this development like having first option to buy the Cade property that borders the Schams and Jakusz. He says he does not, but Cade does have easement to her remaining property that runs through the Jakusz property. Joe stated later in the meeting that if the Schams property gets developed and the Cade retaining pond gets used for water management, that would terminate the agreed upon easement through Jakusz property.
 - Kathy stated that if this property gets approved for rezoning, she'd like it to be Residential A, with no potential for multi-family dwellings.
 - Fred stated that 20,000 sq. ft. (.46 acres) is the County's minimum lot size for a single family.

Old Business

- Review existing Barre Building and Sub-division ordinances
- Review La Crosse County Chapter 17 Zoning code
 - Don pointed out that this particular section has been referenced in most if not all proposed projects brought to his attention.
- Octagon Farms proposed sub-division

- Noted that this project is upcoming.

New Business

- Fred Hilby/Paul Schams rezoning request for parcel # 02-00358-001(Fox Hollow Dr) 56 Acres from G4 -AGRICULTURAL, G5M -AGRICULTURAL FOREST to RESIDENTIAL
 - Much of the discussion is captured above under Public Comment.
 - The Schram rezone request approval suggestion was also based on the comprehensive plan future land use map which was adopted last year by the town electors.
 - Will moved that the BPC recommend the Paul Schams property for rezoning from Agriculture to Residential A for the purpose of single family homes, no condos or apartment buildings. Heidi seconded, and the motion carried.
- D and M Biros Trust rezoning request for parcels 2-117-0, 2-118-0, 2-122-0, & 2-120-0 off of Swamp Road (approx. 25 acres)
 - Denny made the trip from Eden Prairie MN to present tonight. He provided history on his property including that he originally intended to build on the site in the northwest corner near Swamp Road and the existing driveway for the property immediately to the west of his, but plans changed. He noted he was very generous to the town while he still owned the entire farm now owned by Dovenbergs by allowing the Swamp Road bridge to be moved farther south, and for Cave Road to be rerouted for better flow onto his property. He stated that to the best of his knowledge, the building site is not in the flood plain, and is roughly 5500 sq. ft. in size. Ken suggested that we be sure there are no deed restrictions. Terry asked how Denny's property differs from Will's and David Tauscher's, and it was noted that those two properties weren't in the current plan for development which is why they were required ask for review and rezoning during the planning of the 10 year plan last summer, which was ultimately approved for those 2 cases. Denny and Don will do more asking around at the County for advice on the proper way to move forward along with any suggestions the County might have with regards to this proposal
 - Will moved that this item be tabled until next month, seconded by Terry, the motion carried.

Next Meeting: June 2, 2026 at the Town Hall

Will moved for adjournment at 9:14, seconded by Kathy, the motion carried.