

**Town of New Hope
Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday April 19, 2023, 7:00 PM
North New Hope Church, 845 County Rd. T N**

Board members present: Chair Todd Knepfel, Timm Raddatz, and Ray Reser. Also present: Dorene Stolpa - Treasurer, Pat Zellmer – Clerk, George Guyant – Guest.

1. Call to order

Chairman Knepfel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Review of Minutes

Minutes from the March 2023 regular board meeting were distributed to the board members at the annual meeting on April 18, 2023. Supervisor Raddatz moved to approve as printed, Chairman Knepfel seconded. Motion carried.

3. Persons Addressing the Board

- Jennie Larsen and Pat Quigley (935 Taylor Rd. Amherst Junction, representing the Sunset Lake Association)
- John Olson and Greg Rowe (representing Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 10388 State Hwy 161, Amherst Junction, regarding cemetery stewardship on corner of Hwy A and Trout Creek Road, Amherst Junction after closure of church and sale to a private owner)

4. Sunset Lake Association to present Sunset Lake Mgt

Sunset Lake Association (a non-profit organization), submitted the Sunset Lake Management Plan for township approval, with copies sent to Town of New Hope Supervisors. Action items that involve Town of New Hope: page 5: that a 'no wake' status be maintained; page 11: that a 10-acre minimum for lots be maintained, with an alert to that effect sent to homeowners via email; page 14: that the Lake Association will check the Town of New Hope website and meeting minutes for updates. Discussion ensued about whether there was a town ordinance about wake speed. Chairman Knepfel declined emailing landowners and suggested instead that the Town website be monitored for notices. Supervisor Reser inquired if contaminant testing for atrazine was included in the plan, and if cultural resource management of the three recorded prehistoric burial sites around the lake might be considered as additions to the plan. Chairman Knepfel asked that the Town of New Hope contact be changed to 'Town Chair' and that the phone number (715 824 4784) be added to the plan. Supervisor Reser reported three prehistorical burial sites and one cultural site around the lake that are protected under state law. Water testing was discussed. Once approved by New Hope Township, the plan will be forwarded to the DNR for approval. The Lake Association requested approval of the plan. Supervisor Reser moved that the Lake Management Plan be approved as written, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz; motion carried.

5. Variance for roadway setback at 10048 Arrowhead Road (Onland Lake, aka Onneland Lake) by Rev. Ross Shecterle, with possible action.

Chairman Knepfel and Supervisors Raddatz, and Reser looked at the property in question during the annual road survey April 8, 2023. Prior to the road survey, Supervisor Reser contacted the Wisconsin State Historical Society to verify that this parcel is within a recorded archaeological site (47-PT-0106). Although site PT-0106 is not currently listed as a burial location, adjacent sites PT-0020 and PT-0022 are protected burial sites under State Statute 157.70. Because of their proximity, and because it is unknown if burials exist within PT-0106, the Office of the State Archaeologist suggested archaeological monitoring of any subsurface excavation within the site boundaries. Reser suggested that such monitoring be included as a condition of project approval. Discussion followed regarding who should add the condition to the project, Portage County Planning and Zoning or the Town of New Hope. Supervisor Reser agreed to contact Planning and Zoning. He explained that monitoring must be conducted by an archaeologist qualified by the U.S. Department of the Interior and listed on the State of Wisconsin's Archaeological Consultants list (<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/pdfs/hp/Archaeological-Consultants-Sept-2022.pdf>). In the interest of moving the project forward, Reser, who holds those qualifications, offered to conduct the minimal archaeological monitoring and mandated report filing during project excavation, with billing for this service at the standard archaeological rate. Chair Knepfel and Supervisor Raddatz agreed that this would be the quickest way to fulfil the added condition. Supervisor Raddatz moved that archaeological monitoring be added as a condition of the project approval, seconded by Supervisor Reser. Motion carried.

6. Town assuming responsibilities of the Our Savior's Lutheran Church cemetery – discussion/action.

John Olson and Greg Roe (representing Our Savior's Lutheran Church, located at the junction of Hwy. 161 and County Road T, currently closed and sold to a private owner), appeared for questions and discussion regarding ownership, maintenance, and management of the affiliated 'abandoned' cemetery located north of Trout Creek Road, adjacent to South New Hope Church. Discussion ensued regarding plots still available (including two plots 'spoken for' and marked by stakes), a mowing schedule, and how the \$20,000 donation allotted to New Hope would be managed. It was suggested that Attorney Bruce Meagher be consulted. Olson and Roe will bring a scanned document detailing the cemetery to next month's meeting. Discussion tabled.

7. Animal Control contract approval.

8. Supervisor Reser moved that the Animal Control contract be accepted as written, seconded by Supervisor Raddatz. Motion carried.

9. Portage County Onsite Waste Ordinance update – discussion.

An informational discussion regarding the Onsite Waste Ordinance ensued. Planning and Zoning must okay any changes. No action taken.

10. Spring Election.

Town Clerk George Guyant supervised the April 2023 election and reported that all went smoothly, with 312 voters participating. The next election and new voting machines (already contracted with the County) in April 2024 will require training for Treasurer Stolpa and Clerk Zellmer; former Clerk Guyant will assist in that election, and will also participate in the training, held in September at the County Clerk's Office. Zellmer will register all three for training.

11. Payment of bills

Supervisor Raddatz moved to approve paying the bills totaling \$22,923.08 for April, Reser seconded. Motion carried.

12. New business

Supervisor Reser asked about a roof for the Town Hall. With a priority for maintaining the town roads, discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of renovating that building. The Board plans to meet there potentially in June, July, and August.

Chairman Knepfel distributed initial roads survey results, and budget for roads. Noah Swenson continues to do road work, and said he would be able to do 'brushing,' although work would be postponed until winter or spring 2024 (after oak wilt season is over).

13. Next meeting

The next regular Town Board Meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM, May 23, 2023, at the North New Hope Church.

14. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.