

**VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS
PLAN COMMISSION MEETING
April 14, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Village of Barrington Hills Plan Commission was called to order by Chairman Bosworth at 7:31 p.m.

Plan Commission Members Present: Kenneth Bosworth, Chairman
Daniel Wolfgram
Kelly Mazeski
Pamela Cools
Arnold Cernik
Daryl Adams
Julie Joyce

Absent: Patrick Hennelly
Lou Anne Majewski

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Chairman Bosworth asked for a motion for approval of the February 10, 2014 minutes. Several Commissioners had corrections to the minutes and asked Mr. Kosin to review the recordings and deferred approval until next meeting.

Motion Approved

McHENRY COUNTY UDO - Chairman Bosworth asked Robert Kosin to report on this. Mr. Kosin stated that McHenry County has undertaken a consolidation of its land use regulations. The review process was extended the hearing process to April 18th. Our reply has three cogent parts. One, that the County document recognizes the land uses of municipalities. Second, that the County include the density of adjoining municipalities in the development of review. The last point is that the County give voting rights to the municipalities.

Chairman Bosworth stated that the Village has drafted a letter to the McHenry County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) with their Comments. That letter is to be signed by the Village President, the Plan Commission Chairman and the ZBA Chairman. The record that you have is the more detailed with some eighteen points when we went through the document. The UDO is about 368 pages. It covers all varieties of Planning, Sub-divisions, Zoning, Stormwater Management and the like. The overall theme of the Village of Barrington Hills is to have the

County recognize the municipality as an active participant in the development process. These regulations only apply to unincorporated McHenry County and they only apply should there be a development proposal in that unincorporated area.

Chairman Bosworth asked for a recommendation from the Commission to authorize the execution of the letter by himself as Chair of the Planning Commissioner. Commissioner Wolfgram moved. Commissioner Mazeski seconded. All present said Aye.

Bicycle Paths Planning Report – Robert Kosin stated that this is a report and no action is going to be taken. He stated that our Village Engineer, Dan Strahan will report on what are some of the planning elements our Village is engaged in. Dan Strahan reviewed the bicycle planning corridor along Penny Road from Crab Tree Nature Center to Fox River Trail. He also reviewed the road resurfacing funding process of Haeger’s Bend and the bicycle planning issues that arose in that process. Mr. Strahan and Mr. Kosin described the regulatory and planning elements adopted by the counties and IDOT for bicycle travel.

Commissioner Cernik asked what would be the cost of adding a four foot paved bike lane to Haeger’s Bend Road. Dan Strahan stated that the cost is approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000/mile, but that he is mainly looking at the portion of Haeger’s Bend north of Spring Creek Road.

Commissioner Mazeski asked how many homeowners along Haeger’s Bend would need to give permission to use their right-of-way for a paved lane. Mr. Strahan said probably 30 for the entire length and perhaps 12-15 for north of Spring Creek.

Chairman Bosworth asked if there were any studies to indicate that a Haeger’s Bend path would alleviate bike problems in other areas of the Village, or if cyclists would actually utilize designated lanes. Dan Strahan said that there is no evidence currently, and he felt that more experienced riders may continue to go where they chose.

Commissioners Cools and Adams both commented on their personal observations with cyclists in the area, and agreed that there are generally two very different groups of users: 1) local recreational/family bike riders and 2) hard core training “athletes” which typically come from Chicago. The competitive cyclists tend to use the roads as their training tracks and seldom obey stop signs or travel single file. These groups are dangerous to pedestrians and vehicular traffic. They both doubted that a bike lane would be used by the training groups.

Commissioner Joyce doesn’t personally have issues with most cyclists in her area of the Village. She is concerned about the safety of bike riders and often feels cars do not give her the proper courtesy when she is riding her bike.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Colleen Konicek, 803 Dormy Lane – She stated that what our Village Engineer was reporting about is the bike paths for purposes of connecting existing routes along the Fox River, at Crabtree Nature Center, things that will help us as a community, to get funding for our road projects. She understands the frustration that residents have with the bike clubs that come into

Barrington Hills, but the enforcement of the rules for single file biking is not an issue for the Plan Commission. These are two separate issues.

Laurie Abboud, 20 Surrey Lane – Stated that there are many residents here tonight, that are concerned about the pathway on Haeger’s Bend. She is concerned about the large amount of

bicyclists that are outside our Village, occupying our lanes affecting the normal flow of traffic and the safety of everyone involved. She read from one of the websites regarding bicycling routes through Barrington Hills. Adding a bike path to Haeger's Bend is only adding to a problem that already exists.

Sharon Meroni, 1 Surrey Lane – She said that every Saturday and Sunday morning, those bikers start at 6:45 in the morning. The problem is trying to drive past them, as they ride five or six in a row with the bikes and deer on the road along with horses. She has been on her horse with thirty bikes passing her and her horse does not deal with that too well, and Barrington Hills is a horse community. She has nothing against bikers, but when they do not obey the law and she calls 911, the police cannot get there in time. She feels the Village should put this into a referendum for the Residents to vote on.

Chairman Bosworth stated that the Plan Commission only makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees and they are the ones making the decisions.

Lorin Gunder, 11890 Haeger's Bend – I have lived in Chicago and have dealt with bikers every day. I wish we could have a good community out here with bikers, but the bikers we have are the racers and not the good ones. If the Village had a way to enforce the rules, he would be all for the paths, but they can't.

Ellen Walter, corner of Haeger's Bend & River Road – She agrees with all the other comments and bikers fly by that corner and she has never had a biker offer to pay her taxes.

Jim Naumann, 10241 Haeger's Bend – Wanted to address the issue of the road. There will be more traffic and the Village will have to maintain that extra eight feet. It's car riders and bike riders that are the problem. Do we want to bring more traffic into the Village just to get the road done.

Mary Naumann, 10241 Haeger's Bend Road – She has a petition (we the undersigned are against adding designated bike paths to Haeger's Bend Road) signed by everyone she went to on Haeger's Bend, Plum Tree, Surrey Lane and Braeburn, about thirty-five signatures.

Ann Malinski, 3205 Spring Creek Road - She and her family go on designated bike paths, but they do not go on any major roads. If the Village goes ahead with the paths on Haeger's Bend, she doesn't think it will be getting family bikers. She doesn't like the idea of using bike paths to get the road fixed. The Village will ultimately be responsible for maintaining the road.

Bonnie Duresa, 1001 Plum Tree Road – I am opposed to any bike paths anywhere on our roads. The definition and purpose of our Village is that it is an equestrian community, not a biking community. When I moved here twenty-seven years ago, this is what I was told and what I believe. I recently had an incident trying to return home. I was almost hit by a bicyclist on Plum Tree and Ridge and when proceeding west on Plum Tree, found two groups of bikers all over the road. I called 911, took pictures, and later filed a police report.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT: Trustee Konicek stated that everything has already been discussed during the meeting. Residents have up to April 18th to submit any comments on the UDO. Chairman Bosworth stated that the County has proposed some improvements and changes to the Forest Preserve Property as it relates to trails, particularly horse trails, bike trails and walking trails. The County calls it the Trail Master Plan Policy. Trustee Konicek requested that at the next Plan Commission meeting, they will receive the Building Departments procedures for issuing permits.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Cools motioned to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Commissioner Adams seconded. All present said Aye.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Anne Majewski,
Recording Secretary