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February 18, 2009

To: Town of La Pointe
Town Planning Commission

RECEIVED
2/18/09 5:14p

From: Tim Eldred
Box 96
La Pointe, WI 54850

Subject: Public Hearing, February 18, 2009

On February 2, 2009, seven working days ago, I delivered to Town Hall a request to the TPC for information to help me interpret the proposed changes to the zoning ordinance that are the subject of tonight's public hearing.

I had asked for a copy of the current text in question with the proposed changes marked so that I would be able to compare the existing text with the proposed text. I had also asked for an explanation of why I was personally mailed a copy of the meeting notice and proposed language – was there a change that would affect my property?

As of this moment I have not received the information I requested.

I had *assumed* that the TPC would already have compiled this information in the course of their debates of the changes, and that it would be readily available. This information was compiled for the last public hearing on zoning changes held this last summer.

I had *assumed* that the TPC would also wish to provide this information to the public to aid in our understanding of the need for these proposed changes. While these proposed changes may be entirely in the best interest of the Town of La Pointe, how can I tell without this essential information?

I had *assumed* that the TPC would want the public to know that their deliberations were open, above-board, and available to the public. The information I requested can not be gleaned from the minutes that TPC approves of their own meetings. There is no other source for information but from the TPC directly.

All of my assumptions are apparently wrong.

I can only conclude that this is a deliberate decision on the part of the TPC to keep from the public information that is relevant to the discussion at hand.

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I can only conclude that the TPC has made a deliberate decision to keep the public uninformed, and that the course of their deliberations on this and other issues before the TPC are being decided in advance, and are being shepherded through the process without the desire for meaningful public input or discourse. *glh*

There are several other clues that have emerged to bring me to this conclusion. First is the comment by the TPC chairman made at one of their meetings that "The public has a constitutional right to be wrong." Apparently the public also has no right to be well-informed. Is it not the right of the public to expect unbiased information from the Town to help us understand and intelligently comment on the proposals put forth by the TPC, and isn't the only source of that information the TPC itself?

The second clue was the recent public hearing on proposed changes to the zoning of the Jim Ryder property where the TPC chairman had in hand before the meeting began a motion to approve of the changes. It was apparent that the chairman of the TPC had decided in advance, irrespective of any comments to be heard at the public hearing, what direction the TPC would take on the issue.

Another instance was the public hearing held this past summer where it was revealed, only long after the hearing had concluded, that it was known to the TPC and it's chairman that there were different versions of the Comprehensive Plan in circulation – versions so diverse that the mere existence of these contrasting versions was guaranteed to make much of the public testimony look, foolish, ill-informed, and absurd.

Perhaps in regard to the issues before the public tonight it was an intentional move on the part of the TPC and it's chairman to not share pertinent information on the proposed changes so that, again, the public comments would look foolish, ill-informed, and absurd.

One can only conclude from these prior acts that the TPC and it's chairman is unconcerned and unresponsive to the needs of the public to be well informed, that it is motivated by some unknown agenda, and that it seeks to advance that agenda by stifling public debate, and limiting open and free discussion of the issues.

The facts show that the TPC and it's chairman has deliberately chosen to ignore a legitimate request for information on the matters before the public today, and so has tainted in advance any decisions they make regarding the furtherance of these proposed changes.

Because of that it is my intention to ask the Town Board to delay any action on this proposal until the requested information is made available, and a new public hearing on the proposal is held. It is my hope that they agree that the public must be provided with unbiased information on these proposed changes, even if the

only source on that information is a Commission that has shown particular disdain for the public's right to be well-informed and their right to expect that their comments and suggestions will be a valued part of the process of developing changes to the zoning ordinance.

Because the TPC has denied me information essential to my understanding of these proposed changes, I am unable to address directly the issues before the public tonight.

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gjh

February 9, 2009

To: Town Planning Commission
Town of La Pointe
Post Office Box 270
La Pointe, WI 54850

From: Tim Eldred
Post Office Box 270
La Pointe, WI 54850
715-747-3023

Subject: Information request.

cc. Town of La Pointe Board of Supervisors
Town Clerk
Zoning Administrator

Please provide me the following information:

1. Copies of those portions of the current zoning ordinance that are the subject of the upcoming Town Plan Commission Public Hearing of February 18, 2009. Portions of the ordinance that are being struck, changed, modified, or rewritten should be marked appropriately.
2. Explanation of why I was mailed a copy of the proposed new language. I have no way of knowing what changes are applicable to my land.

It would be satisfactory to me to view these items at your office or the Town Hall during normal business hours.

Please let me know when all of these items have been assembled, as I do not wish to have to make multiple requests or visits for this information.

Thank you.

⑦ TPC
Jen, 2A
Jess Clerical, TPC

⑤ TB
LARRY
Barb

