Town of Rudolph Comprehensive Plan 2020 Update

Chapter 66.1001, Wisconsin Statutes, requires comprehensive planning in each county, city, village and town that engages in land use regulatory activities, such as zoning or subdivision ordinances. The Town of Rudolph prepared a comprehensive plan during 2008 and 2009 and, after a properly noticed public hearing, the plan was approved by the town board on June 3, 2009.

Those statues also call for update of the comprehensive plan every ten years. To prepare for this task, the Town of Rudolph sent three members of the Land Use and Zoning Commission to training, presented by the UW Extension, on updating the plan. The board also purchased physical handbooks on planning and zoning for the commission to use in preparing an update. After lengthy review of the plan, current conditions in the town and the options for updates, the commission met early in 2020 to draft the update.

At two public meetings, the commission members considered the specific elements in the comprehensive plan and looked for significant changes. During this process, it became evident that little had changed in the Town over the past ten years, and there were only small updates even to the supporting data. Changes in land use may be occurring elsewhere, but in Rudolph, change comes slowly. The area remains a rural, bedroom community with most people employed in adjacent communities. The Wisconsin Department of Administration demographic population estimate for 2019 for the Town is exactly the same as 2010 census numbers, with 0% change.

In the area of transportation, the former Wood County Road P is now designated State Highway 66 and State Highway 34 is now State Highway 13-34. As the Department of Transportation predicted, the latter highway is seeing more traffic as a connector to the new US Highway 10. There are no plans on the DOT schedule to upgrade 13-34 or any other roads in the Town.

Community utilities and communications had two changes: with a second solid waste provider operating in the town, residents now have options for waste disposal, with both companies offering recycling pick-up. With more data and communication transmission towers needed, the town clarified their designation as industrial buildings and amended the zoning ordinances to reflect that after a duly noticed public hearing. The Wood County web site (www.co.wood.wi.us) is the link for the most up to date information on tower locations, trails and other information.

Economic development is more difficult to determine in a rural town, but Rudolph continues to support many home businesses. Roughly a quarter of the conditional use permits issued relate to small shops and businesses in the town. Other services and business have changed ownership and names, but continue to be available to residents.

The Town of Rudolph recognized the decline of newspaper circulation and importance of making information more easily available by establishing a town website (www.townofrudolph.com) for meeting notices, information on services and elections and other information.

Updates to the Town ordinances are requested periodically and all discussion and drafting done in properly noticed public meetings, with a public hearing for review and final vote by the Town board. The Town Comprehensive Plan continues to meet the needs of the Town with the above noted changes to the community.

Approved June 2, 2020

By Town of Rudolph Board of Supervisors