

ONOTA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Planning Commission was called to order at 7pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Brian Mahoney, Fred Ivers, Vicki Ray, Brian Bresette, Michael Tarr, Erin Putvin

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made to adopt the agenda as amended to add Mark Zitnik to New Business.

Motion: Brian Mahoney

Support: Fred Ivers

Motion carried: 5-0

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the 7-14-26 meeting as (presented) / (amended)

Motion: Vicki Ray

Support: Brian Bresette

Motion carried: 5-0

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Sarah Kimar asked if the May minutes would soon be updated online. She also requested access to error system annual reports for the last five years. In response, yes the minutes will be updated.
- Mike Remilong reported on his land and zoning situation. He questioned why the Zoning Administrator will not allow permits on a section of his land if the land is combined across section lines. Remilong is looking for resolution on this situation. Michael Tarr questioned Mark Maki about what terms are being violated. ZA responded that he does not plan to issue permits on the land that is being combined that lies across the section lines. Michael Tarr will be in touch with the township attorney.
- Lisa Quest inquired about adding a detached guest house. Mark Maki will review her zoning and respond accordingly.
- Jason Copeman offered clarification on Lisa Quest's question.
- Molly Carmody asked when the Town Development Section was established. The answer is 1994.

VII. REPORTS

- Zoning Administrator: Mark Maki
 - Mark reports that the transition to ZA has involved a backlog of work involving many calls and messages. Many messages about STR.
 - Mark is requesting a Zone of Appeals book.
 - Mark requested a Planning Commission workshop. Workshop is scheduled for August 20, 2026 at 6pm.
- Township Board Representative: Brian Bresette
 - There was a public hearing on August 1, 2026 at 9 am. After five hours of public comment, the township board decided to vote at the meeting on August 3, 2026. At the meeting, the township board followed the planning commission's decision not to change the zoning on Old M-28. Old M-28 will remain town development.
 - The annual roll-off event will occur on September 18/19, 2026.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

- Email received from Mike Remilong.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- STR: Michael Tarr showed and discussed STR applications from neighboring localities. Applications will be accepted after the enforcement officer is hired. The application will be addressed at the work session on August 20, 2026 at 6 pm.
- Michael Tarr also discussed House Bill 6026 and 6027 concerning possible state regulations on STR

X. NEW BUSINESS

- Mark Zitnik, DNR Lieutenant presented information and discussion on working with the state to purchase private land between north Shore Drive and Laughing Whitefish Point. Deer have yarded in this land for many years. It is Zitnik's hope that this land will be purchased from Lyme Timber so that it can remain a deer yard indefinitely. Mark is looking for letters of support.
 - Brian Bresette motioned that the planning commission send a letter supporting the state land purchase for a deer yard in Onota Township. Brian Mahoney supported the motion. Motion carried 5-0.
- Mark Zitnik also discussed that the Forest Service Wyman Nursery is looking to sell 6000 trees. The trees are red oak, are six years old, and are 6-10 feet tall. This will be open to the public.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Char MacDonnell asked about a data center ordinance. Yes, this will be addressed.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8pm

Motion: Brian Mahoney

Support: Fred Ivers

Motion carried: 5-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Putvin

Planning Commission Secretary