

RESOLUTION 2021-002

Sponsor: Supervisor Weenonah Bratsett

TOWN OF PALMYRA

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2021, the Town of Palmyra received an application from Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department for a petition from John and Michelle Mehring seeking to re-zone a portion of parcel #024-0516-3342-001 from I to A-3; and

WHEREAS, at the March 8, Palmyra Town Board meeting, during Mr. Mehring's presentation of his proposed re-zone, Mr. Mehring stated that he had contacted adjoining property owners and they had no objection. The Town Board takes such things into consideration when making decisions. This statement later proved to be untrue; and

WHEREAS, when considering the Mehring re-zone petition, the Palmyra Town Board did not notice that the petition provided to the Town of Palmyra by the Jefferson County Zoning Department was unsigned and is therefore invalid; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. #59.69 2(f) states: "Whenever a county development plan, part thereof or amendment thereto is adopted by the board, a duplicate copy shall be certified by the clerk and sent to the municipal clerks of the municipalities affected thereby; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board, on February 9, 2021 voted unanimously to approve the updated "Comprehensive Plan" and "Farmland Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan"; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board failed to provide notice of the updated Comprehensive Plan and Farmland Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan to the Clerk of the Town of Palmyra until April 6, 2021; and

WHEREAS, when considering the Mehring re-zone petition the Palmyra Town Board had not yet received the updated Comprehensive Plan and Farmland Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan; and

WHEREAS, when considering the Mehring re-zone petition, the Palmyra Town Board did not consider the following Land Use Goals as set forth in the updated Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan and Farmland Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Plan:

1. "Preserve and enhance the county's rural character, including community character, farmland, and natural resources... " . In fact, the proposed re-zone is adjacent to the Southern Kettle Moraine Forest and is not within a residential area.
3. "Ensure that new development aligns with the existing development and preserves and enhances the natural environment of the county." In fact, Residential development in this area does not align with existing development and detracts from the natural environment of the Kettle Moraine Forest; and

WHEREAS, when considering the Mehring re-zone petition the Palmyra Town Board did not consider the following Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goals:


1. "Preserve, protect and enhance the quality and quantity of Jefferson County's natural and cultural resources... ." In fact, this re-zone would violate this stated goal.
3. "Preserve, protect and expand the natural resources of the county for use and enjoyment by future generations of residents and visitors." In fact, this re-zone fails to meet any of these goals.
4. "Protect sensitive environmental corridors and resources, wildlife habitat and local cultural and historic resources for current and future residents." In fact, this property is adjacent to the Ice Age Trail and immediately adjacent to the Southern Kettle Moraine Forest's Bald Bluff and part of it lies within an environmental corridor. Residential development in this area will be in direct opposition to Goal 4 of the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goals.
6. "Carefully plan for siting of development to protect agricultural, natural and cultural resources within the county." In fact, residential development in this area will not protect the natural and cultural resources, i.e. the Kettle Moraine Bald Bluff and the associated natural areas; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of the foregoing misrepresentations by the applicant and the lack of communication from the County Zoning Department, on March 8, 2021, the Town of Palmyra voted to approve the petition from John and Michelle Mehring seeking to re-zone a portion of parcel #024-0516-3342-001 from I to A-3; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the applicant's failure to sign the Petition, the Town approval of the Mehring re-zone petition is invalid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Palmyra does hereby resolve to rescind its approval of the Mehring re-zone petition.

ADOPTED  5-7-2021
Laura Lowrey
CLERK/TREASURER

ADOPTED  5-7-2021
Larry Kau
TOWN CHAIRPERSON

