

**Town of Somerset
Parks, Recreation & Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
(Unofficial Until Approved at Next Meeting)**

Call to Order & Roll Call

- Chair Plourde called the Parks, Rec & Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A quorum was established with the following members present Tabatha Hansen, Russ Hultman, Lenny Germain, Bill Lawson, Joe Jahnke, Jeri Koester, and Doug Plourde.

Approval of Agenda & Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion by Jahnke, seconded by Lawson to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Plourde stated the B & R Properties 4 Lot CSM was postponed at the Town Board and they were informed to return to the Town Board with clarification on an easement to the commercial zone. Motion by Lawson, seconded by Jahnke to approve the December 17, 2025, PRPC meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Public Input: Todd Peterson inquired on the current zoning of the property. Peterson asked what the distance was from the new drain field to the Peterson property line. David Denn stated a minimum of 70'. Peterson also expressed concern with more people there and requested quite time at 9 pm at night. Denn stated he has never been aware of noise issues but would be happy to discuss it. Denn expects to spread the usage out throughout the week with school groups. The overall usage/membership is down. Denn stated the Gray Wolf Program would be the loudest and it will be moving to another property at the end of June. Cindy Clayton stated if the wind is just right, she can hear the scouts at her property. Clayton also questioned the lost Scouts that have made it onto their property, so she questioned whether she is responsible for putting up no trespassing signs on the backside of their own property. Denn stated they would put no trespassing signs on the Scout Camp side of their property. Plourde stated anything Denn can do to keep the adjacent landowners appeased is appreciated. Clayton stated the Scouts should have hunter orange on when out in the woods during hunting season so they are visible to other hunters. Denn stated he would talk about it with the team. Denn stated hunting is not allowed on the Scout Camp property. Peterson questioned if there was a fire program. Are there procedures? Denn replied that they have a Fire Response Plan and they will be trimming out dead and tightly packed trees.

Old Business: None.

New Business

- **Conditional Use Permit-Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp LLC/McCain Carlson-Isaac Fuhr Construction of a 2-Car Garage, Addition of Two Modern Bathroom Facilities onto Existing Cabins at 186 Andersen Scout Camp Trail, Houlton:** Buildings within the Riverway District are the 2-car garage, removal of two buildings where garage is going, stand-alone restroom or two small additions to the restrooms and the maintenance building. Denn stated that the one thing that is not on the plan is an Environmental Learning Center with an indoor climbing wall, but that building is outside of the Riverway District. Both driveways will be enlarged for delivery trucks/school bus usage. Germain stated the Easterly driveway should be an ingress driveway only, pulling out of the driveway, you cannot see to the East and there is not enough site distance. Germain requested if the driveway is going to be used as a primary, that it moves to the top of the hill to see both ways or further toward the main entrance. Germain suggested keeping current driveway gated and use it for emergency use and install a new driveway at the top of the hill. Denn will refer the issue to Carlson McCain engineering firm for their review. Germain inquired about a shooting range. Denn stated the only shooting on the property is archery and bb/air guns. No firearms. The new building will house artifacts and serve as a museum. Denn stated there will be some lighting. Clayton asked if this is Phase 1 and are more phases coming. Denn replied that it has been broken into phases, upper level, and lower level. Phase 1 is upper level with Environmental Learning Center. Phase 2 will be the lower level- basic building improvements/remodeling and widen the road by 3'. Two bathroom facilities are planned for the lower level. Five buildings that are dilapidated may be removed and replaced with a shelter.

Carlson McCain gave a presentation. Culverts will be installed to control drainage. Stormwater Permits will be acquired, if necessary. Hansen asked if the bathroom additions will be added onto cabins or stand-alone. Denn stated they are open to Town's recommendation. Denn stated it may be more economical to add the bathrooms onto the cabins, but they are open to suggestions. The bathroom additions are on the non-river side. Planning Commission had no preference. Plourde stated it is a huge asset to the community and to get the youth outdoors to enjoy nature is a benefit to all. Denn stated they will be one of the largest Scout Counsels in the country now.

Motion by Lawson, seconded by Hultman to recommend approval of the Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp Conditional Use Permit Request for the Lower St. Croix Riverway. Motion carried.

Announcements & Adjourn

- *Motion by Germain, seconded by Lawson to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.*

Jeri Koester,
Clerk