

Zoning Administrator's Report

A. March Permits: The following permits were issued over the last month by the Zoning Department:

1. SuperAmerica, 30923 First Street, to reface existing signs;
2. Dana Firkus, 4242 Jokela Drive, for an addition to an accessory structure;
3. Julie Melberg, xxxx Rickard Road, for a new home and garage.

B. Correspondence: Your Staff sent the following correspondence since the last meeting:

1. March 28 letter to Lonesome Real Estate regarding Conditional Use Permit;
2. April 4 letter to Wesley T. Johnson regarding yard debris;
3. April 5 letter to Christopher and Bambi Brown regarding exterior storage.

C. Council Meeting Notes:

An excerpt from the April 2 Council meeting are included:

10.3. Region 5 Children's Museum Site Selection Request for Proposal

Nancy Malecha informed the Council that about a month ago she was contacted by two representatives from the Region 5 Children's Museum Board of Directors to discuss potential sites for a Children's Museum somewhere within Region 5 along the Highway 371 and 210 corridors. The Mayor, Economic Development Commission Chair, and Ms. Malecha met with the representatives and highlighted three properties for their consideration. These properties consisted of the Heart of the Good Life Development which is City owned, the Fire Tower property which is County owned, and property on the east end Sibley Lake at the corner of North Oak Street and Patriot Avenue which is privately owned and abuts the DNR boat access landing.

About two weeks ago, the formal request for proposal was received. A Brainstorming Committee consisting of Mayor Tayloe, County Commissioner Brekken, EDC Chair Lindholm, Mark Jurchen, Dawn Bittner, and Nancy Malecha met to determine an action plan on how to proceed with a proposal. The Committee agreed to proceed with pitching all three properties as noted above and Mark Jurchen has graciously offered to take the lead in compiling information and the narrative for the proposal with input from the Committee and various other community collaborators.

Ms. Malecha requested a consensus from the Council to proceed with the proposal process as outlined above for submission to the Region 5 Children's Museum Board of Directors by May 3, 2019.

A consensus of the Council agreed to proceed with the proposal and submission processes for the Region 5 Children's Museum to include the Heart of the Good Life Development, Fire Tower property, and Sibley Lake property as presented.

D. Potential Violations/Enforcement Actions: The City Staff is currently working on the following potential violations/enforcement actions. We will report on each of these each month until they are resolved to the satisfaction of the Planning Commission.

- John and Barbara Derksen – Exterior storage. Mr. Derksen has brought this property into compliance except for the snowmobiles. Staff has requested he reduce his Recreational Vehicles to 3. (5/13)
- Diane Koval – Exterior storage. Staff issued an Administrative Citation. (4/16)
- Robert Swenson – The City Council declared this property a public nuisance in 2017. Staff has issued 3 Administrative Citations. (6/16)
- Timothy & Kristi Crist – Exterior Storage and Lawn. Staff will continue to monitor and meet with Mr. Crist. (4/17)
- David & Christine Kennedy – Maintenance. Staff has issued 2 Administrative Citations. (5/17)
- Gary Galle – Stormwater and Incomplete Construction. Mr. Galle's permit was extended 6 months. Landscaping has been stabilized with straw blanket. Part of the north side and the west side siding needs to be completed. (6/18)
- Lee Moren – Maintenance, Exterior Storage & Lawn. Property owner is making progress and requested additional time to comply. (8/18)
- Scott Pederson – Exterior Storage. Property owner has removed some items and claims to be compliant. Storage is not visible from public right-of-way. (6/18)
- Nathan Walberg – Parking within the right-of-way of Patriot Avenue and on DNR Snowmobile Trail. (3/1)
- Wesley T. Johnson – Maintenance. Piles of storm debris remain from last summer and need to be removed or burned. Staff will verify in the spring. (9/18)



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March 28, 2019

Lonesome Real Estate, LLC
Brandon Andersen
PO Box 665
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

RE: Conditional Use Permit for Exterior Storage

Dear Mr. Andersen:

It has come to my attention that there is one unsatisfied Condition of approval for the above-captioned Conditional Use Permit (CUP) in 2007. That Condition reads:

“The proposed alternate alignment will run adjacent to this property. To provide screening of the outside storage as viewed from the proposed alternate alignment, the property owner shall install screening, consisting of evergreen trees and fencing or other similar materials, which would provide 100% screening of the exterior storage area as viewed from the highway, within six (6) months of the road completion.”

With ten years between the CUP approval and the completion of the alternate alignment, it is understandable that this Condition was overlooked. We are requesting that by April 10, 2019, you provide a written plan outlining your plans to meet the requirements of this Condition.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at dbittner@pequotlakes-mn.gov or at 218-568-6699.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bittner
Zoning Specialist

C: Planning Commission



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April 4, 2019

Westley T. Johnson
3894 Ramsey Street
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

**RE: City of Pequot Lakes
Potential City Code Violation
PIN: 291070030410009 and 291070030420009
3894 Ramsey Street**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This letter is to remind you that the piles of branches and yard debris need to be disposed of or burned within the next fifteen (15) days (by April 20, 2019). As my previous correspondence has outlined, failure to do so will prompt us to initiate enforcement action.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bittner
Zoning Specialist

C: Planning Commission



April 5, 2019

Christopher L. and Bambi Z. Brown
28345 Mayo Hills Road
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

RE: PIN: 29132001001Z009 and 29132002001Z009

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Brown:

It has come to our attention again through complaints that you are storing items on the vacant lot across the road. As we discussed at the Planning Commission meeting in August, there was to be no exterior storage on that lot. The trailers and the pontoon were to be moved to the lot with the principle structure or into the pole barn.

You were also advised at the same meeting that the equipment being stored on the lot with the principle structure would need to be screened from the right-of-way and from neighboring properties, either with vegetation or a fence. I have documented that the equipment was lined up and stored neatly, but will require some type of screening in the future.

I also noticed there is a red, trailer-type RV in your yard in addition to the 33-foot RV. The definition of a Recreational Vehicle is:

193. **Recreational Vehicle.** A motorized vehicle designed and used for recreational purposes and enjoyment and non-motorized vehicles or equipment designed to attach thereto and be drawn or propelled thereby, including, but not limited to, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, boats, boat trailers, travel trailers, truck campers, camping trailers, and self-propelled motor homes, and other recreational motor vehicles as defined by Minnesota Statutes, Section 84.90.

The City Code states in Section 17-7.5:

Section 17-7.5 **EXTERIOR STORAGE**

1. **Declaration of Nuisance.** Excess outdoor storage of materials, equipment and other objects is declared to be a public nuisance because it is unsightly, decreases adjoining landowners' and occupants' enjoyment of their

property and neighborhood, adversely affects property values and neighborhood patterns and poses a threat to the public health and safety when such objects are visible and accessible to passersby.

2. **Standards.** Objects stored outside that are visible from public rights of way or neighboring properties are a public nuisance if they are not stored in compliance with the following requirements.
 - A. There shall be no exterior storage allowed on lots that do not contain a principle or accessory structure.
 - B. Where there is a principle or accessory structure, all materials, equipment and other objects shall be stored within a building or fully screened so as not to be visible from adjoining properties, except for the following: laundry drying, recreational equipment, construction landscaping materials and equipment currently being used for construction of the premises, woodpiles, agricultural equipment and materials if these are used or intended for use on the premises, off-street parking except as otherwise regulated herein.
 - C. No more than two fish houses are permissible. Fish houses must be stored at least 10 feet distance from a rear property line and outside of the OHW setback.
 - D. Exterior storage shall be allowed as follows:

ZONING CLASSIFICATION	STANDARD
Rural Residential Transition Residential Urban Residential	A maximum of three (3) recreational vehicles, including boats, shall be allowed to be parked and/or stored outside a building on private property in the rear yard of a non-riparian lot not less than the applicable setback from any property line. (1) (2) (3)

- (1) All recreational vehicles, including boats, shall display a current license or watercraft registration if required for such boat or recreational vehicle.
- (2) Non-motorized watercraft nine (9) feet in length or less that do not require watercraft registration by the State of Minnesota are not considered as stored under this article, so long as applicable setbacks are maintained.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, multiple recreational vehicles stored on a single trailer less than 16 feet in length shall be considered one recreational vehicle.

- G. Abandoned motor vehicles shall be stored within a structure or completely screened from view from adjacent properties and right-of-way. See Chapter 3, Article 8.

Overnight parking of a vehicle and trailer would not be considered exterior storage on the vacant lot, but leaving a vehicle and trailer more than 24 hours would be considered exterior storage.

Please immediately refrain from placing items on the vacant lot that will be considered exterior storage. In addition, please provide a timeline and description of your screening plan for the items parked behind the pole barn by May 5, 2019.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bittner
Zoning Specialist

C: Planning Commission