

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings are required for the following:

- Zoning changes
- Conditional Use Permits
- Plat Approvals
- Comprehensive Plan Amendments
- Ordinance adoption (new or amended)

Purpose

A public hearing provides a forum for citizens to share their opinions and provide input to Town Board supervisors.

Plan Commission

The Plan Commission is a seven member committee that is appointed by the Town Board. The Plan Commission generally meets the first Tuesday of each month (6:00 p.m.). The Plan Commission is a recommending body. All recommendations are made to the full Town Board.

Town Board

The Town Board is a five member board that is elected for a two-year term. The Town Board meets the second Wednesday of each month (7:00 p.m.). All decisions made by the Town Board are recorded in the official minutes and are considered final.

Procedures

- Sign-in sheet: members of the public will be asked to sign-in.
- Welcome/opening comments: the Chair welcomes attendees and sets the stage by describing the format of the hearing and informing everyone in attendance of the ground rules for the hearing.
- Staff presentation: at times, staff may be asked to present a brief overview of the pending legislation for background purposes.
- Comments from the public: The Chair calls on citizens wishing to speak. Citizens shall state their name and address before providing comment.
- Correspondence for the record: any correspondence from the public or from government agencies will be read into the record.

Ground rules

- Citizens' participating in a meeting shall be done in a reasonable, orderly and respectful manner.
- Personal attacks will not be permitted.
- Interruptions of a speaker and disruptions of the meeting (applause, jeering, etc.) will not be tolerated.
- A standard time limit for all speakers may be directed at the discretion of the Chair.
- Plan Commissioners or Town Board members are expected to not participate as members of the public. They may be asked to clarify a point but shall not engage in debate. They will discuss the item at their regular meeting – which generally follows the public hearing – taking into account the public input.

Zoning changes

Rezoning may be required to change a property's zoning to allow a change in land use. The Town of Holland partners with La Crosse County for authorizing rezone requests. All zoning is administered by La Crosse County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 17. An outline of the different zoning districts and land uses (Chapters 17.30 through 17.43) can be viewed at: <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/Code/default.htm>. The Town votes on zoning changes in conjunction with the County Board.

Conditional Use Permits

A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is generally needed when a certain land use is not allowed within a certain zoning district. For instance: a small business within a residential district. The Town of Holland partners with La Crosse County for CUPs. Chapter 17 of the La Crosse County Zoning Ordinance outlines the provisions for a Conditional Use Permit. The Town votes on CUPs in conjunction with the County Board.

Plat Approvals

The Town of Holland regulates and controls the division of land within the township in order to promote the public health, safety, prosperity, aesthetics and general welfare of the community. Plat approvals are regulated under Town Ordinance #1-2008. All plats are required to receive County and State approval as well.

Comprehensive Plan Amendments

The Comprehensive Plan is our community's vision of the future. Amendments may be appropriate throughout the lifecycle of the Plan, particularly if new issues emerge or trends change. These amendments will typically be minor changes to the Plan's maps or text and will typically be considered at the beginning of each year. All Plan amendments are subject to County approval.

Ordinance adoption

The Town of Holland has the authority to draft and execute police powers in areas prescribed by State Statute. Ordinances, by nature, are designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community. In general, the Plan Commission begins the ordinance drafting process, forwarding their adaptation to the Town Board for official action.