

CHAPTER 9 IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENT

Section 9.1 Introduction

The Comprehensive Plan is intended to be used as the guide for future development decisions. Its real value, however, will be measured in the results it produces. To accomplish the goals, objectives and policies of the plan, specific implementation measures must be taken to ensure the Town of Linwood's actions meet the desires of its Comprehensive Plan.

Requirements of a local Comprehensive Plan include State Statutes: 66.1001. This is intended to be generally consistent with other development plans, policies, and ordinances that have been adopted by Portage County. Likewise, future county plans should recognize the land use recommendations herein set forth by the Town of Linwood.

Section 9.2 Comprehensive Plan Adoption Procedures

The Wisconsin State Statutes establish the manner in which a Comprehensive Plan must be adopted by a community:

66.1001(4) Procedures for adopting Comprehensive Plan. A local governmental unit shall comply with all of the following before its Comprehensive Plan may take effect:

- (a) The governing body of a local unit shall adopt written procedures that are designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan. The written procedures shall provide for wide distribution of proposed, alternative or amended elements of a Comprehensive Plan and shall provide an opportunity for written comments on the Plan to be submitted by members of the public to the governing body and for the governing body to respond to such written comments.*
- (b) The Plan Commission or other body of a local governmental unit that is authorized to prepare or amend a comprehensive plan may recommend the adoption or amendment of a Comprehensive Plan only by adopting a resolution by a majority vote of the entire commission. The vote shall be recorded in the official minutes of the Plan Commission or other body. The resolution shall refer to maps and other descriptive materials that relate to one or more elements of a comprehensive plan. One copy of an adopted Comprehensive Plan, or of an amendment to such a Plan, shall be sent to all the following:
 - 1. Every governmental body that is located in whole or in part within the boundaries of the local governmental unit.*
 - 2. The Clerk of every local governmental unit that is adjacent to the local governmental unit that is the subject of the plan that is adopted or amended as described in par.(b)(intro).*
 - 3. The Wisconsin Land Council.*
 - 4. After September 1, 2003, the Department of Administration.*
 - 5. The Regional Planning Commission in which the local governmental unit is located.*
 - 6. The public library that serves the area in which the local governmental unit is located.**

- (c) *No Comprehensive Plan that is recommended for adoption or amendment under par (b) may take effect until the political subdivision enacts an ordinance or the Regional Planning Commission adopts a resolution that adopts the plan or amendment. The political subdivision may not enact an ordinance or the Regional Planning Commission may not adopt a resolution under this paragraph unless the Comprehensive Plan contains all of the elements specified in sub (2). An ordinance may be enacted or a resolution may be adopted under this paragraph only by a majority vote of the members-elect, as defined in s.59.001(2m), of the governing body. An ordinance that is enacted or a resolution that is adopted under this paragraph, and the plan to which it relates, shall be filed with at least all of the entities specified under par (b).*
- (d) *No political subdivision may enact an ordinance or no regional planning commission may adopt a resolution under par.(c) unless the political subdivision or Regional Planning Commission holds at least one public hearing at which the proposed ordinance is discussed. That hearing must be preceded by a class I notice under ch. 985 that is published at least 30 days before the hearing is held. The political subdivision or Regional Planning Commission may also provide notice of the hearing by any other means it considers appropriate. The class I notice shall contain at least the following information:*
- 1. The date, time, place of the hearing.*
 - 2. A summary, which may include a map, of the proposed Comprehensive Plan or amendment to such plan.*
 - 3. The name of an individual employed by the local governmental unit who may provide additional information regarding the proposed ordinance.*
 - 4. Information relating to where and when the proposed Comprehensive Plan or amendment to such a plan may be inspected before the hearing, and how a copy of the plan or amendment may be obtained.*

As previously stated in this plan, The Town of Linwood Comprehensive Planning process took place as part of a large County-wide planning effort. These concurrent and complementary regional and local planning efforts began in June 2001. On July 25th, 2001, the Portage County Comprehensive Planning Joint Steering Committee adopted the Portage County Comprehensive Public Participation Plan. This extensive document detailed the many ways and opportunities that citizen input would be encouraged and facilitated throughout the formulation of the Comprehensive Plans across Portage County. On August 6th, 2001 the Linwood Town Board adopted the Portage County Comprehensive Public Participation Plan as a model for their process. The Town Board on March 10th, 2003 adopted a resolution to withdraw from further participation in the development and/or adoption of the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan.

Beginning in September of 2001, the Linwood Plan Commission held public meetings to discuss different elements that make up their Comprehensive Plan.

Each of these meetings were open to the public and officially noticed, being posted in three public places or listed in the Stevens Point Journal. The Plan Commission recommended the Plan to the Town Board for consideration on April 13th 2009, with copies of this recommended draft made available for inspection at the Town Hall, a public hearing was held before the Town Board and Plan Commission on June 8th 2009, and the Town of Linwood Comprehensive Plan was officially adopted by majority vote at the October 5th, 2009 Town Board meeting. A copy will then be submitted to the State for their approval and then submitted to Portage County.

Section 9.3 Comprehensive Plan Implementation

Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(3) establishes the actions that must be based on the adopted comprehensive plan (2003 Wisconsin Act 233 revised the original list of items to meet the consistency requirement) to include:

- (3) Actions, procedures that must be consistent with Comprehensive Plans. Beginning on January 1, 2010, if a local governmental unit engages in any of the following actions, Those actions shall be consistent with that local governmental unit's Comprehensive Plan: Official mapping established or amended under s.62.23(6); Local subdivision regulation under s.236.45 or 236.46; County zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s. 59.69; City or Village zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s.62.23(7); Town Zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s.60.61 or 60.62; Zoning of shorelands or wetlands in shorelands under s.59.692, 61.351 or 62.231.*

The Town of Linwood has been under Portage County Zoning since 1969 and Portage County administers the Zoning Ordinance for the Town. The Town is also subject to the County's Shoreland and Floodplain Zoning, Subdivision, Private Sewage, Tower and Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinances.

The Town shall undertake a review of the regulatory tools for compatibility and consistency with the various goals, objectives and policies of the adopted Comprehensive Plan, and identify any sections of the documents that may need updating. The Town may in the future be studying possible ordinances.

To ensure that this Plan will accomplish its intended goals, more steps will need to be taken beyond simply adopting this document. In general, the plans effectiveness depends upon the commitment of Town and County officials, as well as local residents, to follow through with the policies, recommendations and action plan contained herein. Town of Linwood will be working with Portage County and surrounding municipalities.

Action Plan:

Specific actions needed to preserve the Town's rural atmosphere, guide growth and otherwise successfully implement this Plan include:

1. Review the Town of Linwood zoning map annually and update as needed.
2. Review Comprehensive Plan, Goals, Objectives, and Policies at the Annual Town Meeting.
3. Review Zoning Changes on a case-by-case basis.
4. Review the Town of Linwood ordinances annually and update as needed.
5. Identify primary heavy traffic corridors and consider the designation of truck routes.
6. Explore opportunities for developing a Town park.
7. Consider a newsletter to inform residents of issues of interest in the Town.
8. Continue to meet regularly with other units of government.

Section 9.4 Relationship to Zoning

While this Plan is intended to serve as a guide in updating the Town zoning map, it is advisory in that it does not have the authority of a zoning ordinance. However, the State’s Comprehensive Planning law requires that *beginning on January 1, 2010, if a local governmental unit engages in any of the following actions, those actions shall be consistent with that local governmental unit’s Comprehensive Plan.* One of those actions is zoning, therefore, the Town’s zoning map will have to be consistent with the recommendations found in this Comprehensive Plan.

The Portage County Board has authority regarding amendments to the Town zoning map, since the Town of Linwood is under County zoning jurisdiction. It is the County Board’s established practice to seek the input of the Town Board, Town Plan Commission, interested Residents/landowners, and the Planning and Zoning Department when formulating decisions. However, under State law, the Linwood Town Board is granted the power to veto any zoning change made within the Town by the County Board.

The Town of Linwood will rely on the Portage County Zoning Ordinance as the primary tool for implementing their Comprehensive Plan. Both the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance use districts to separate incompatible uses and specify appropriate development densities. Each land use district identified by this Plan describes the community’s expectations of what future development should consist of within specific areas. To implement those expectations, the Town must assign zoning districts that match the intent of their land use districts.

Table 9.1 is provided to show appropriate zoning/land use district relationships.

Table 9.1: Zoning / Land Use Plan Compatibility Table

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP CATEGORIES PORTAGE COUNTY ZONING DISTRICTS	Natural Area - Protected	Limited Agriculture / Mixed Use L-3¹	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Institutional	Non Metallic Mineral Extraction
CON - Conservancy	X						
A1 - Exclusive Agricultural		X				X	
A2 - Agricultural Transition		X				X	X
A20 -Primary Agriculture		X				X	X
A3 - Low Density Agricultural		X				X	X
A4 - General Agricultural		X				X	X
R1 - Rural and Urban Fringe Residence			X			X	
R2 - Single Family Residence			X			X	
R3 - One and Two Family Residence			X			X	
R4 - Multiple Family Residence			X			X	
R5 - Waterfront Residence			X			X	
C1 - Neighborhood Commercial				X			
C3 - Commercial District				X			
C4 - Highway Commercial District				X			
IND - Industrial District					X		

1. All non-metallic extractions greater than 30,000 sq. feet are regulated by special exception.
2. All industrial uses are regulated by special exception.

Section 9.5 Integration, Amendment, and Update of Comprehensive Plan Elements

A. Integration

The goals, objectives and policies contained within the nine elements (chapters) of this Comprehensive Plan, along with the accompanying inventory and analysis, have been thoroughly reviewed and approved by the Linwood Plan Commission and Town Board. Throughout the drafting and review process, great care was taken to include all issues and concerns from the Board and Commission members, as well as from the community at large. Special attention was then given to making sure that the policies required to address the individual issues or concerns did not conflict, either with each other within the chapter, or between the different chapters. The future revision of any Comprehensive Plan goal, objective, or policy shall receive the same level of deliberation and analysis as the original Plan; special attention shall be given so that the new adopted language does not create conflicts within or between chapters.

B. Plan Amendment and Update

As cited at the beginning of this chapter, State Statutes section 66.1001(2)(i), states that the Comprehensive Plan shall be updated no less than once every 10 years. To comply with this requirement, the Town of Linwood will need to undertake a complete update of this document and appendices by the year 2020. This plan should also be revised as needed, in order to maintain its usefulness as an up-to-date working tool. The Town may commence the update at any time prior to 2020 as Town conditions or needs change. The Town of Linwood may also wish to consider adding new sections to this document to address needs in specific areas such as transportation, recreation, economic development, etc.

In all instances, the Town Plan Commission is to review the plan and make recommendations at a Town Board Meeting. The key is the review by the Town Plan Commission in cooperation with the Town Board to review any new or existing issues that are presented.

Smaller-scale amendments to portions of the Comprehensive Plan may also be considered by the Town Board at any time. The public shall be notified of any proposed changes and allowed the opportunity to review and comment. The Town should consider resident's opinions in evaluating a proposed change. The procedure for amendment and update will be the same as original Plan adoption outlined in Section 9.2 above.

1. Amendment Initiation

The following may submit a request for a Comprehensive Plan amendment:

- Linwood Town Board
- Linwood Town Plan Commission
- Any Town resident*
- Any person having title to land within the Town
- Any person having a contractual interest in land to be affected by a proposed amendment
- Any agent for the above

*Any Linwood resident may request the Town Plan Commission review future land use for a parcel of land (not owned by the resident making the request); and determine if it is in the Town's best interest to move forward with the request or deny it.

The entity that proposes an amendment to the Future Land Use Plan Map shall have the burden of proof to show that the proposed amendment is in the public interest and internally consistent with the remainder of the Plan.

2. Review Procedure

- a. A copy of the request for amendment shall be given to the Town Clerk, then a copy shall be forwarded by the Town Clerk to each member of the Plan Commission.
- b. The Plan Commission shall review the request at one of its regular or special meetings for compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. Upon conclusion of their review, Plan Commission shall make a written recommendation to the Town Board for either approval or denial. This recommendation shall include finding of fact to justify the recommendation.
- c. The Town Board shall hold a public hearing on the request, per State Statute requirements. After reviewing the request, Plan Commission recommendation, and comments from the public hearing, the Town Board shall make a decision to the proposed amendment with revision(s) that it deems appropriate. Such revisions to the proposed amendment shall be limited in scope to those matters considered in the public hearing.
- d. Update History of Adoption and Amendment. The Plan Commission shall establish a table entitled “History of Adoption and Amendment” for the purpose of keeping records on Plan amendments.

3. Request Requirements

- a. A request submitted by a resident/landowner/agent to amend the Future Land Use Map shall include the following:
 - A scaled drawing of the subject property
 - A legal description of each of the parcels in the subject property
 - A map of existing land uses occurring on and around the subject property
 - A written description of the proposed change
 - A written statement outlining the reason(s) for the amendment
 - Other supporting information that the Town may request and deem appropriate
- b. Other Amendments: For all other types of amendments, the request shall include the following:
 - A written description of the proposed change
 - A written statement outlining the reason(s) for the amendment
 - Other supporting information that the Town may request and deem appropriate

4. Special Considerations for Plan Amendments

- a. Internal Consistency: Amendments shall be made to preserve the internal consistency of the entire Comprehensive Plan.
- b. Granting special privileges or placing limitations is not permitted. No amendment to change the Future Land Use Map shall contain special privileges or rights or any conditions, limitations, or requirements not applicable to all other lands in the district.
- c. The amendment shall not create an adverse impact on adjacent land and/or land uses.
- d. The amendment shall not create an adverse impact on public facilities and services.

Section 9.6 Monitoring/Formal Review of the Plan

To assure that this Comprehensive Plan will continue to provide useful guidance regarding development within the Town, the Linwood Plan Commission must periodically review and amend the Plan to ensure that it remains relevant and reflects current Town values and priorities.

In order to achieve this, the Town Plan Commission Chair shall request, at least once every year, to place the performance of the Comprehensive Plan on the agenda of a regular or special Plan Commission meeting for discussion and recommendation to the Town Board. Discussion should include a review of the number and type of amendments approved throughout the previous year, as well as those that were denied. This information serves to gauge the adequacy of existing policies: multiple changes indicate policy areas in need of re-assessment. Other topics would include changes to either the development market or resident's attitudes and values toward different aspects of Town life. As a result of this discussion, the Plan Commission would recommend either no change to the Plan, or one or more specific changes that should be addressed. At this point the process detailed in Sections 9.2 and 9.5 above would commence.