



MILTON • TOWNSHIPS • NEW HAVEN



ORONOCO • PINE ISLAND • ROSCOE

PINE ISLAND COMMUNITY PLANNING TEAM
Meeting Notes: Wednesday, April 8, 2015

ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Present	Name	Organization	Present
Tammy Berg-Beniak	School Dist 255	X	Rod Steele	City of Pine Island	
John Champa	School Dist 255	X	Jerry Vettel	City of Pine Island	x
Kim Fall	School Dist 255	X	Todd Omberg	Park Board	x
Rob Warneke	School Dist 255	X	Madge Alberts	Milton Township	X
Karen Doll	Pine Island EDA	X	Dale Thomforde	New Haven Township	X
Troy Kuball	Pine Island EDA		Mark Thein	Oronoco Township	X
Rick Keane	Pine Island EDA		Richard Miller	Pine Island Township	X
Morgan Hansen	Van Horn Library	x	Gale Hoven	Roscoe Township	
Kevin McDermott	City of Oronoco		Courtney Schaeffer	Chamber of Commerce	

1. **Call to Order** – 7 p.m.

2. Township Updates

Milton

- Three permit requests for various things at April meeting. All approved.

New Haven

- Chair is now Denny Byer.
- Pay for officers was left the same for this year. Election judge pay raised to to \$15/hour. Planning and zoning pay raises to \$45/meeting.
- 125th St. – Put 32 trucks of rock on it – road is soft again.

Oronoco

- Working on another community septic system. Have to buy 4 acres of land. They made offer for \$25,000.

Pine Island

- Raised election judges to \$12.50. They had four aps for building permits.
 - A car went off a bridge on 180th. The road is 17 feet wide on top of culvert. There are narrow bridge signs.
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- #6 in Goodhue is going to be cement. Blacktop prices have not gone down with oil prices down. There is only one supplier – Mathey.

3. School

- Just entered testing season – goes through early part of May. ACT is April 28.
- Moving to on-line fee payment and a new student management system - also upgrading websites.

New Building

- We watched the school video on the construction. There are 80 people on site daily.
- PI is 6-9 months ahead of the other referendums that passed. Byron had to get new bids. Using existing design really helped time and cost.

4. City – Jerry

- NW quadrant streets will be done this summer – about 9 blocks. Got bids in early. Equipment moved in already.
- Co. 11 will be resurfaced from the city to the bridge.
- There was a fire downtown above Thrivent. Nobody was hurt. They used the new ladder truck.
- There were no pay increases.
- Lincoln Industries from Nebraska bought DS Manufacturing. First time Lincoln has bought outside of Nebraska. They make fancy chrome parts for motorcycles, tractors, etc. DS will make smaller size stuff. Plan is to keep as is and to increase employment by 50% within 12 months.

5. Library

- They had Food for Fines campaign in March - Pine Island more than reached its goal for food in March.
- Held straw bale garden program – lots of interest.
- They are working on identifying all youth books according to 100 book challenge standard. Hoping to have it done by fall.
- They received a \$15000/grant to digitize newspapers – they are now done through 1921 – which is as far as they can do, with copyrights. Minnesota Historical Society does this for them. Search for digital newspaper hub.

6. Park Board – Todd

- They are offering community gardens in the Kundert flood lot - 10x10 lots for \$30, and includes water and tilling. Water will be in a tank this year. There is fencing available. No takers yet - they need to publicize it. FFA has had gardens around.
- They are moving some trees around town, and talking about a skate park by cheese factory.
- Pool leak is fixed but compliance stuff not done. No lifeguards hired yet. New pool committee starts next week. Looking at a smaller pool rather than a water park. Manager will be same as last year but will be more closely supervised.
- Getting bids on mulch for parks.

7. Chamber

- They have five food vendors for Sat. night events —and many bands are booked.

8. EDA

- Hotel market study came back. They don't feel a small hotel here can make it with Rochester market so full. Businesses surveyed would send people to Rochester if it was less expensive. We can build on the current study. Developer and clients were interested.
- Nothing new on zip rail. Nothing new on MN Dot.
- First meeting of joint wastewater task force between Oronoco and PI was held. Students potentially would look into what other communities are doing, who pays, legal entities – and what works well. Oronoco needs it quickly; pine Island not so quick. The county agreement is to allow Oronoco five years to exempt from septic requirement.
- Officially – Karen is retiring at the end of July. It's posted this week.

9. Discussion:

Goodhue County Live Well Project

It targets socioeconomically disadvantaged kids. We don't really know exactly what they are looking for. Karen will check with the guy and get a sense of what he has and what he's thinking about, and see if he will meet with a group. Library could do health education.

Tournaments and events

- Lots of communities go after tournaments/events. We don't have facilities here; like a fast food restaurant. Karen has talked to several people with fast food interest.
- Old A&W has had interested buyers, but bank won't reduce price to what will cash flow.
- Richard thinks we need to let the community digest the school before we promote anything else. The school is trying to keep true to what they promised.

School Boundaries

- Rob wants to talk to Rochester about school boundaries. Where would be the natural line - 85th? Mark suggested 90th street, 18th Ave. Rochester isn't looking at building north. PI would like boundaries to include Oronoco. It's a convoluted process to change boundaries. We would need to discuss with Oronoco too. If there's already momentum, might be good to take advantage of it. Maybe call it Pine Island Oronoco School District.
- We have 16 new students this year

Pine Island Marketing

- Pine Island has a page in the Rochester Visitor.

NEXT MEETING: MAY 13TH AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE EDA OFFICE

Notes submitted by: Madge Alberts