

**WASHINGTON ISLAND ZONING & PLANNING  
COMMITTEE MEETING - Meeting Minutes  
Monday March 25, 2024  
Rutledge Room, Washington Island.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:38 PM by Chairman Doug Hansen

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Kickbush, Doug Hansen, Larry Kahlscheuer, Susan Kochanowski, Andrew Kehren, Susan Buchanan, Connie Smith

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Peter Sownie

**2. APPROVAL of AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as written. Motion by Kochanowski, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Buchanan. **Motion passed** unanimously.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes March 11, 2024 meeting were approved as written. Motion by Kochanowski, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Buchanan. **Motion passed** unanimously.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE:** Emails from Brandon Robinson with survey information and school input.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**5. a. Town of Washington Comprehensive Plan** –Susan Kochanowski to follow up with Christine Anderson at WICHP about resources, issues and opportunities. Map supplied by Alex McDonald from the Door Co. GIS Web Map shows 15 rights of ways to add to the community resource map. Kehren reported that about 15 kids are currently homeschooled with younger siblings accounting for an anticipated increase to 20 in coming years. Per the school district’s discretion, home schoolers can attend up to 2 classes per day at Washington Island School and still be homeschooled. Who receives funding for home schoolers? Kickbush to follow up. Kehren to follow up with Quantum about utility needs. Susan Buchanan to update Economic Development Goals & Objectives. Susan Kochanowski to update Natural, Agricultural & Cultural Resources Goals & Objectives.

**5. b. Opening for WIZAP Committee** – No action taken.

**6. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**7. COMMUNITY INPUT:** None.

**8. BOARD INPUT:** Add publishing of survey questions to next agenda.

**9. NEXT MEETING:** April 8, 2024 at 6:30pm.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Kochanowski, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kehren. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Kickbush AIA  
Secretary  
Washington Island Zoning & Planning Committee



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## Electric coop summary

1 message

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**Andrew Kehren** <[andrewkehren@gmail.com](mailto:andrewkehren@gmail.com)>  
To: WIZAP Committee <[wizap@washingtonisland-wi.gov](mailto:wizap@washingtonisland-wi.gov)>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 7:08 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrew Kehren** <[andrewkehren@gmail.com](mailto:andrewkehren@gmail.com)>  
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024  
Subject:  
To: [Nvm6348ntimh91@print.epsonconnect.com](mailto:Nvm6348ntimh91@print.epsonconnect.com)

Washington Island cooperative is dealing with bringing power to the Island. Additionally, the Coop manages and purchases the banners on Main Road, installs LED street lights and parking lot lights throughout the island, maintains the solar installation at the school, donates to island events, and provides safety demonstrations for residents of the island.

A constant stress on the power structure is the overgrown foliage causing shorts in the electrical system, as well as animals chewing on the lines. These are both being addressed by clearing trees away from lines in numerous locations over the island. This provides a more reliable power grid for the island.

The coop is working with Nsight to install four cell towers, one at schoolhouse beach, one at the coop on Tower Road, one at the ferry dock, and one at Jackson harbor. These towers are operated by Cellcom and are improving the spotty cell phone coverage on the island.

The coop is working with Quantum Technologies to install high speed internet through a fiber optic line. The \$7 Million project is meant to provide the approximately 1100 homes on the island with a fiber optic cable, giving them the capability for high speed internet and cell connectivity. At the end of 2023 there were about 300 residents with internet access. The project is expected to be completed by 2027 and is being funded by the Washington Island Cooperative and grants from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **GOAL:**

Grow the local economy by capitalizing on tourism opportunities, expanding recreation into the shoulder season, and leveraging existing capital to grow businesses.

**Objective:** Develop better marketing strategies for recreation in the shoulder seasons.

**Objective:** Encourage the exploration of options to obtain added tourism revenue for the town

**Objective:** Support and retain existing restaurants and retail shops and attract new locally owned and operated ones to fill existing gaps.

**Objective:** Encourage locally owned and operated tourism lodging facilities including short term rentals options (with the establishment of an governing ordinance).

**Objective:** Encourage more farm markets, eco and agi-tourism, locally grown businesses and event venues.

**Objective:** Encourage the development of “home based” businesses through better use of existing and future technologies.

**Objective:** Expand existing trail networks including for hiking, biking, skiing and birding. Create a new water trail for kayaking.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION**

**GOAL:** Work cooperatively with nearby and overlapping entities such as Door County, State of Wisconsin, and other units of government on town, regional and state initiatives to benefit the island community.

**Objective:** Work with neighboring communities and entities to provide cost effective services to residents

**Objective:** The Town of Washington will continue to work with adjoining governments as the town develops, revises and updates its comprehensive plan.

**Objective:** Seek new ways to coordinate and share community facilities and services with neighboring communities.