

Arbor Vitae plans moratorium to deal with storage containers

By Brian Jopek

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Arbor Vitae town board will more than likely get a moratorium on storage containers enacted at its next meeting.

"These things are being set," building inspector Rick Clem told the town board at its Aug. 18 meeting. "It's a big problem."

The issue is, essentially, people bringing the containers in and using them for more than storage.

Town clerk Mary Reuland updated town board members on the storage container issue at its Sept. 15 meeting, letting board members know as she went about her research, she found there was little the town could do about regulat-

ing storage containers because they fall under Vilas County zoning.

Her research included discussions with a staff member with the Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA), who advised there was little the town could do short of permitting the containers.

Reuland said she then talked to Minocqua town chairman Mark Hartzheim, who had just received from the WTA information regarding placing a moratorium on storage containers, effectively prohibiting them on a non-commercial piece of property.

"He said yes, a town with village powers could likely impose a moratorium on shipping containers while the town considers whether and

how to regulate them," she said, adding Minocqua is in the "same boat" as Arbor Vitae when it comes to shipping, or storage, containers.

"They're under Oneida County zoning, we're under Vilas County zoning," Reuland said. "We are a town with village powers and so is Minocqua."

She said the Oneida County zoning department plans to create an ordinance against the shipping containers and Hartzheim mentioned to her the town of Minocqua would more than likely get a storage container moratorium in place until Oneida County gets an ordinance put together and approved by the full county board.

Reuland then went into

some possible delays that could figure into a Vilas County ordinance addressing storage or shipping containers not happening anytime soon, among them the retirement in May of Vilas County zoning director Dawn Schmidt and the possibility Jay Verhulst, chairman of the Vilas County board's zoning committee, not running for another term on the county board.

"I've heard he's not gonna run again," she said. "So, let's write a moratorium, is what I'm trying to say."

"Exactly," town chairman Frank Bauers said, referring to a copy of the shipping container moratorium put in place by the town of Grafton in Ozaukee County.

It's reviewed every six

months by the town board there.

"I think if we do the same exact thing and that'll give the county board a chance ... if they're gonna do something and if not, with this moratorium, there would be no time limit," Bauers said.

It was clarified there probably should be a time limit on whatever moratorium Arbor Vitae puts in place, Reuland suggesting a year with a review at the end of year.

"In the meantime, there's a moratorium on 'em and they wouldn't be allowed," she said.

"We'll get that enacted at our next meeting," Bauers said.

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Cran-a-Rama in Manitowish Waters!

Come celebrate the cranberry harvest and fall colors

Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce will present its annual Cran-a-Rama, Saturday, Oct. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the community center in Manitowish Waters.

The annual fall event features the 21st annual cranberry cooking contest, arts & crafts booths, free samples of cranberry juice and sweetened dried cranberries, free cranberry marsh shuttle bus tours to the Vilas Cranberry Company, a cooking demonstration, the sale of cooking contest entries (while the goodies last), and a suggested self-guided fall color excursion tour route for those who wish to view the spectacular fall colors along our country roads and highways. Representatives from several of the area's fantastic restaurants will offer a "Taste of the Harvest" at the event. Delicious foods from their kitchens will be available for purchase on-site, under the Lions Pavilion, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Cranberry cooking contest

Official cranberry cooking contest rules for 2021 are available on the Chamber's website at www.manitowishwaters.org.

Prepared entries must be brought to the Lions Pavilion on Oct. 2 between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. along with the recipe and personal display materials. Judging will begin at 10 a.m. after which all entries will be portioned out and sold during the "Taste of Harvest."

The overall winner of the contest will receive a certificate redeemable for a free flight in a float plane with Lauer Aviation, compliments of



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Busses will shuttle folks to the Vilas Cranberry Company's cranberry marsh for an up close look at the bogs during Cran-a-Rama on Saturday, Oct. 2, in Manitowish Waters.

Jerry and Karen Wilke. Awards will also be presented to those who place first and second in each of the three cooking categories. Additionally, all contestants will receive a complimentary copy of the 2019 Manitowish Waters Cranberry Cooking Contest Recipe Book. These will also be available for sale, while supplies last.

Cranberry marsh tours

Two busses will be shuttling folks to the Vilas Cranberry Company's cranberry marsh for an up close

look at the bogs and a visit to the Cranberry Square gift shop. A bus will leave the community center every half-hour, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. These one-hour round trip tours are free, courtesy of the Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce and the Cranberry Growers Association.

Arts and crafts

Outdoor booth spaces are still available! All arts & crafts indoor booth spaces have been reserved, however, the outside spaces still

available measure 12' x 12' and cost \$35 each. The reservation form may be downloaded under the calendar of event listings for Cran-a-Rama, at www.manitowishwaters.org or picked up at the Chamber office.

The Manitowish Waters Community Center and the Lions Pavilion are located 5733 Airport Road and Highway 51, one mile south of County Highway W. For more information, contact the Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce at 715-543-8488, or visit www.manitowishwaters.org.

School

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num number of COVID-related student and staff absences to trigger a shift to two weeks of remote learning. This number would include those who are absent due to positive test results, symptoms or close contact with someone who has tested positive. It would not, however, include students being kept home for precautionary reasons. Two days

would be set aside for students and staff to prepare for remote learning before it would begin. Unanimously, the motion carried.

Vaccines

Ouimette mentioned that the issue of vaccine mandates had been a topic of discussion at recent tribal council meetings.

"The question was asked... of whether the tribe and the school should mandate vaccines, if the (school) board had discussed vaccine mandates," he said. "The dis-

trict does have the right to mandate a vaccine if they wanted to do so, but it would have to include (exemptions) for religious beliefs and also for handicapping conditions."

He added that there were staff members at Lac du Flambeau Public School who were unvaccinated due to pregnancy and medical conditions, and that staff shortages were already a prominent issue in the time of COVID-19.

"If we lost even a few of our staff members who did

not want to be vaccinated, we'd be even shorter," Ouimette said, stating that he saw incentives, rather than mandates, as the best way to promote vaccination.

Zimmerman stressed the significance of vaccination to COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

"There's a lot of things out there showing that the vaccines are safe. There's millions being distributed, and yes, there's going to be some people that have (side) effects," he said. "Just the sheer numbers (are) going to make that happen. But for

the majority, it's safe, and I hope we can use this situation to teach our kids a little more about health."

COVID leave

In addition, the Lac du Flambeau school board approved up to 80 hours of paid leave for district employees who needed to leave work due to contracting COVID-19 or close contact with someone who has contracted COVID-19.

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