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THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS

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Oneida zoning sends streamlined shoreland standards to hearing

By Richard Moore
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Despite resistance from the DNR in key areas, the Oneida County zoning committee has approved and sent to public hearing new shoreland zoning provisions designed to streamline permitting, reduce the need for separate permits, and make construction and landscaping permitting less onerous overall.

The DNR has made clear it opposes certain revisions being proposed, including the ability to place retaining walls in the shoreland zone to control erosion, as well boathouse aprons for access. The county has nonetheless preserved those proposals in the ordinance headed to public hearing.

The county did revise objections the DNR made in an earlier draft that would have eliminated shoreland alteration permits altogether — the agency said a permitting system was required — but the new ordinance proposal includes broad exemptions for projects

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State officials answer PFAS questions in Stella Clean water provided to affected households

By Heather Schaefer
OF THE RIVER NEWS

The Stella Town Hall was packed to near capacity Thursday evening as concerned residents gathered to learn more about PFAS contamination detected in local wells.

In a 90-minute informational meeting, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Department of Health Services (DHS) officials provided an update on the contamination, which was detected in late 2022 as part of a statewide well testing project, and explained ongoing

efforts to supply safe drinking water to the affected households.

In a Thursday morning media briefing on the Stella PFAS issue, held via Zoom, DNR and DHS officials stated that the DNR has made carryout cases of bottled water available to the

town for households with PFAS-impacted wells until temporary emergency water agreements are established.

According to Thursday's briefing, the number of households receiving water due to elevated levels of

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HEATHER SCHAEFER/RIVER NEWS

Andy Dana of Ayres Associates, DOT project manager Stacy Hagenbucher and DOT engineer Todd Deloria participated in a public engagement meeting Wednesday evening, Jan. 18, 2023, at Rhinelander City Hall. The meeting was held to give members of the public an opportunity to provide feedback on upcoming highway projects.

DOT outlines upcoming highway, intersection projects

Additional roundabouts may be on the way

By Heather Schaefer
OF THE RIVER NEWS

The Department of Transportation held a public involvement meeting Wednesday evening at Rhinelander City Hall to explain proposed highway projects scheduled for 2024 and 2026 and hear feedback from residents.

The proposed improvements include pavement replacement from County G to County P and from State Highway 47 to County G. The G to P project is scheduled for 2024 with the 47 to G project to follow in 2026.

"The pavement has a large number of transverse cracks that are susceptible to tenting during the winter," according to a summary of the project posted on the DOT website. "The pavement also has alligator cracking and rutting. The WIS 17 South intersection has a higher number of crashes than what would be expected for a similar intersection."

According to the DOT, the G to P project would also involve subgrade

improvements from Highway 17 North to River Bend Road.

In addition to pavement replacement, the 47 to G project would address safety concerns at the US 8 intersection with Wis17 South/Boyce Drive.

The three intersections scheduled for improvement as part of this project are: US 8 and WIS 17 South/Boyce Drive, US 8 and Oneida County G and US 8 and Wis 17 North/Germond Road.

According to Andy Dana of Ayres Associates, who led Wednesday's presentation, there are three options for each of the intersections: replace in kind, improved signalized intersection or roundabout.

"Replace in kind" means matching the existing intersection layout and replacing deteriorated pavement and curb and gutter.

The "improved signalized" option includes reconstruction of the intersection as an updated signalized intersection with replacement of all traffic signals.

The roundabout option involves the reconstruction of the intersection as a "modern single-lane roundabout" simi-

lar to the roundabout located at U.S. 8/STH 47/W. Kemp.

According to Dana, roundabouts reduce the number of intersection conflict points and reduce crash severity.

Those attending the presentation offered plenty of feedback, peppering Dana and DOT project manager Stacy Hagenbucher with questions and concerns.

One attendee asked about the criteria for determining which highways are addressed.

Funding is a major factor, Dana replied, noting that this project will be 80 percent federally funded.

Hagenbucher added that a pavement rating system and ADT (average daily traffic) are also taken into consideration.

Another resident contended that "P is already destroyed" due to high truck usage.

"What are you going to do about P?" he asked.

The DOT is "coordinating with the county" regarding P, Hagenbucher replied.

Several attendees were adamant

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obituaries

Jack Perlberg

Jack Perlberg, born May 18, 1935, died Dec. 28, 2022.

Jack loved to talk about his service in the Air Force, working on the U2 Spy Plane Project in the 1950s. After 30+ years Jack retired from ADT Security Systems where he worked in Milwaukee, Detroit, Fort Wayne and back to Milwaukee as a salesman and branch manager. Jack's joys in life



Perlberg

were time spent with his grandchildren, weekends with family and friends at the Shack in the North Woods and time on the links with his Skill Ability buddies in Delafield. The grandkids loved breakfast with grandpa, especially his famous silver dollar flapjacks. His many flavors of soups and cookies were the rave, as they were often requested by his many admirers. He will always be remembered with a smile on his face and a welcoming hug.

Jack is survived by his wife, Lollie (Manning) Perlberg; five sons: Kevin, Jeff (Carol), Chris, John and Michael Didway; brother James (Shirley), sisters-in-law Pat Perlberg and Mary Lou Perlberg.

Jack is further survived by eight grandchildren; Kaila (Willie) Beaudry, Rachel, Nichole, Chloe, Kristen, Morgan, Kraig (Lauren) Perlberg and Johnathan Didway and one great-grandchild,

Chip, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and good friends.

Jack was preceded in death by his mom and dad, Alyce and Izadore Perlberg, and two brothers, Jerry and Denny.

Funeral services will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church (2580 W 9th Ave, Oshkosh) on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until the time of service, at church.

The Perlberg family wants to thank Little Chute Health Services and Compassus Hospice for amazing and compassionate care, they all were truly angels.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established.

Darlyn J. Jackson

Darlyn J. Jackson, of Pickerel died on Jan. 17, 2023 at Aspirus Langlade Hospital. She was 79 years old. She was born on Dec. 8, 1943, in Antigo, a daughter of Hilbert and Norma (Shanks) Borneman. She married David Jackson on July 27, 1963 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Polar. He preceded her in death on March 18, 2017.

She was a graduate of Antigo High School, class of 1961.

Mrs. Jackson has a 32-year career with the United States Postal Serv-

ice. She served as postmaster in Pickerel, Stetsonville, Rothschild and Rhinelander. During her career she was the first female mail carrier for the Antigo post office, served as superintendent of postal operations in Stevens Point, MSC director of mail processing in Wausau, deputy district director of the National Association of Postmasters of the United States, and served as part-time clerk and officer-in-charge for both Antigo and Tomahawk between post master selections. She was also a recipient of the Crystal Eagle Award for outstanding leadership.

Darlyn was a member of the Pickerel Pearson Lions Club and Arbutus Lutheran Church where she served as both president and treasurer.

She also served as clerk for the Town of Langlade.

She enjoyed golfing, bowling, fishing, traveling and trips to the casino. She was a Chicago Bears fan. She will be remembered for her beautiful flower gardens and her abundance of raspberries.

Survivors include four sisters, Dawn (Don) Banczak of Antigo, Donna (Dave) Witman of Lily, Denise (Dale) Schroeder of Antigo, and Deb Sadowski of Merrill; two brothers, Dan Borneman of Antigo and Dean (Diane) Borneman of Arbor Vitae; two brothers-in-law, Chuck (Laura) Jackson of Pickerel and Don (Dani) Jackson of Coloma; and several loving nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by an infant sister, Mary; two sisters-in-law, DeLores Borneman and Judy (Ron) Selenske; and a brother-in-law, Phil Sad-

owski

A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 at Arbutus Lutheran Church with Deacon Pam Werth officiating. Visitation was held at the church from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and burial took place in Arbutus Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude Children's Hospital, www.stjude.org.

Bradley Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences at www.bradleyfh.com.

Donna Marie Robinson

Donna M. Robinson, 80, of the Town of Crescent, passed away on Friday, Jan. 13, 2023, at Rennes Health & Rehab Center.

Born in Rhinelander on July 1, 1942, to Lucy (Bel-ski) and Oscar L. Durkee, Donna was a 1960 graduate of Rhinelander Union High School. She was united in marriage to Eugene Oliver Robinson on Oct. 7, 1961. They moved to Fort Benning Georgia where Eugene was enlisted in the U.S. Army as a helicopter mechanic. They were married for 37 years until Eugene's death on Aug. 5, 1998.

Donna was a stay-at-home mother until the kids were in high school. Then she went to work at Triumph Twist Drill for 13 years. She then went to work with her husband at Sowinski Farms down in Missouri and did a lot of fishing together.

Donna is survived by her daughter, Bridget (Mark) Kubiske of Rhinelander, son, Andrew Robinson of Minot, North Dakota, daughter-in-law,

Lisa Robinson of Rhinelander, brother, Oscar (Kathy) Durkee of Wausau, brother-in-law, Tom Vanney of Bundy, brother, Charlie (Loretta) Durkee of Rhinelander, sister, Mary (Jerry) Knuth of Florida, sisters-in-law, Nancy (Tom) Ives, Nancy Robinson, Helen (Dale Gerdes), Jeanette Robinson, and Mary Robinson, all of Rhinelander and many nieces and nephews.

Seven grandchildren, Randy and Marshall Robinson, CarolAnne Lehman, Douglas Lehman, Jodi Price, and Ryan and Shelby Robinson. Eight great-grandchildren, Breleigh and Taylor Robinson, Owen and Noah Lehman, Rylee Gene Norberg, Freya, Grayson, and Nathaniel Robinson.

Donna is preceded in death by her parents, husband, Eugene, son, Eugene O. Robinson Jr. "Rob", and a sister, Beverly Vanney.

Bridget and Andy would like to acknowledge Donna's amazing hospice family who went above and beyond with her end of life care the last few years. Jen Dixon, Jammie, Jennifer S., Sara S., massage therapist, volunteers, and many others. You all are earth angels.

The visitation for Donna will take place on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023, at the Hildebrand Funeral Home from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. and at the funeral home on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023, from noon until the 1 p.m. memorial service. Chaplain John Uhlarik will officiate.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Hildebrand Funeral Home & Cremation Specialists, 24 E. Davenport Street, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, 54501, 715-365-4343.

Everyone is invited to sign the guestbook or leave an

online condolence at www.hildebrandrussfh.com.

Barbara Jean Kelley

Barbara Jean Kelley, age 82, of Rhinelander, died on Jan. 19, 2023 at her home, with her family at her side. She was born on Sept. 21, 1940, in Rhinelander, the daughter of Louis and Fay (Gilbert) Sutton. Barbara was a lifelong resident of Rhinelander.

She attended schools here and then worked for Allen Bradley, Triumph Twist Drill and finally Foster and Smith.

Barbara married Dallas Kelley and God

blessed them with over 55 years of marriage. She worshipped God as a member of the St. Mark Lutheran Church in Rhinelander.

Barbara is survived by her husband Dallas, her daughter Carla Toney, her son Matthew Gilman, her six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, her stepdaughters Laurie Kraus and Terri Janes, and her special friend for 50 years, Patti. She was preceded in death by her parents, her infant son Brian, her son Michael Gilman and sisters Connie, Paddy and Suzie.

Interment and prayers will take place at a later date at the Forest Home Cemetery. You may leave your private condolences for the Kelley family at www.carlsonfh.com. The Carlson Funeral Home (715-369-1414) is serving the Kelley family.



Kelley



Jackson

Stella

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PFAS in their wells stands at 24.

The DNR has also contracted with Culligan to provide bottled water delivery in five-gallon jugs to the homes of residents with impacted private water supplies, according to the briefing.

Residents interested in this service are required to request it through the DNR and sign an access agreement with the state and vendor before receiving water delivery. Residents are asked not contact Culligan directly if they are requesting the DNR to pay for the bottled water.

PFAS, per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products, including non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant sprays and certain types of firefighting foam. These contaminants have made their way into the environment through accidental spills of PFAS-containing materials, discharges of PFAS-containing wastewater to treatment plants and certain types of firefighting foams, according to the DNR. These chemicals are known to accumulate in the human body,

posing several risks to human health including certain cancers, liver damage and decreased fertility.

Some of the results from Stella represent some of the highest PFAS readings found in the state to date, according to the DNR. One woman who spoke during Thursday's meeting said her next door neighbor's well showed PFAS contamination at more than 40,000 ppt (parts per trillion). For context, the recommended safe level is 20 ppt.

Not surprisingly, the woman said she has deep concerns about her well and the potential impact on the value of her property.

"Here's what we have. We have a contaminated well... well, we have not got our numbers back, but our neighbor is the highest in the area so we're not very optimistic," the woman said. "We've worked our butts off to pay off our house, we're about to retire, would maybe want to sell. We have a crappy well. There's nothing we can really do about it. Currently, we make too much money to get that grant so it's all on us."

The grant the woman referred to is a \$16,000 disbursement through the DNR's well compensation grant program.

According to the DNR website, the ARPA well

compensation grant program provides funding to eligible landowners, renters or business owners to replace, reconstruct or treat contaminated private water supplies that serve a residence or non-community public water system wells.

To be eligible, family or business income may not exceed \$100,000 for the prior calendar year.

State Sen. Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) urged Stella residents not to give up hope. She stated that the state legislature is well aware of this issue and may take action in the current term to allocate additional funds to help those affected by PFAS.

"As you may have heard, we have a surplus," she noted.

In both the media briefing and the public meeting, DNR officials stated that they have not yet identified the source of the contamination and stressed that it may be some time before an answer is found. They also left open the possibility that no definitive source will be identified.

"(PFAS) marches to the beat of its own drummer in the environment," DNR remediation and redevelopment program manager Christine Sieger stated during the media briefing. "It doesn't behave like other things in the environment

and so investigation into PFAS... like any other contaminant, can take years. In some cases we're not going to find a responsible party. We're going to look and we might find that we can't tell where it's coming from. We could find that there are multiple sources responsible. It's an iterative process and it's one that takes time."

Conversely, no potential sources have been eliminated at this point either.

"It's too early for us to take potential sources off the table," Sieger said.

Noting the agricultural history of the Town of Stella, a member of the media asked if sludge spread on agricultural fields could be a potential source of the contamination.

"That certainly is a potential source," Jim Zellmer, administrator of the DNR's Division of Environmental Management, responded.

"And, as Christine (Sieger) had mentioned, right now, we are compiling all the information that we have from our database as well as what we can learn from both neighboring states and federal partners to try and identify that as far as potential sources and biosolids is one of those."

During the media briefing, a question was posed regarding the potential testing of agricultural products

grown in Stella.

DHS toxicologist Dr. Sarah Yang stated that question should be addressed to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) which regulates agricultural products.

The *River News* hopes to explore this question further, with any information received to be reported in an upcoming edition.

It should be noted that no specifics were mentioned during the briefing or the public meeting as to any use of sludge on Stella agricultural fields. Thus, to be clear, it is unknown when, if, or how often any sludge may have been spread on the fields. This is another topic we intend to explore further.

The state officials did tell Stella residents that it is not advisable to use water with elevated levels of PFAS when gardening this spring.

During the media briefing, a question was posed about potential blood serum testing.

As "everybody has some level of PFAS in their blood" due to its prevalence in the environment, such testing might not be the best course of action, the state officials responded.

Anyone in Stella with questions or concerns about

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Tiffany

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tending the listening session.

Tiffany spoke about the rule changes in response to a question with regard to the PACT (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics) Act.

The PACT Act is legislation which helps provide services to veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances via the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

Tiffany voted against the bill and said it was because it became a “Christmas tree” when other lawmakers continued to add on to it. He would have liked to see a “narrower” bill which spent less money, yet still accomplished its goal.

One of the rules highlighted by Tiffany stated bills will be single subject.

He explained the reason why it took 15 votes for Kevin McCarthy (R-CA-20) to be elected as Speaker of the House was for rule changes like that one.

“Most of us who voted for Andy Biggs and not for Kevin McCarthy pre-Thanksgiving, we voted that way because we wanted changes in the House rules,” he said. “To stop this Christmas tree affect. To stop having bills come out of the Speaker’s office, not go through committee, and you only have a couple people

making decisions on spending trillions of dollars.”

Members who initially voted for Biggs (R-AZ-5) wanted to have “a much more transparent ... and accountable process” for U.S. citizens, Tiffany said.

Other important changes highlighted by Tiffany include representatives now having a minimum of 72 hours to review bills before voting on them, raising the debt ceiling to require separate votes, any member can put forth amendments to spending bills and any member can motion to remove the Speaker.

“And by the way, these rules are really good for every single member of Congress of the United States,” he said. “It’s just for this session. Now I would hope to continue to have (the rules), first off I would hope to continue to have the majority again in two years. And if we have the majority, I can tell you there (will be) a lot of us who will say we want those same rules.”

The new House rules are good for the minority party too, Tiffany said, because it eliminates previous provisions preventing representatives from amending bills on the floor.

He said he would have offered amendments to the PACT Act if he could have, but that wasn’t the case.

“This is a really good change,” he said. “And it gives

Democrats the same opportunity that it does Republicans. It is good for all 435 members of the House of Representatives if they choose to use it, and it’s going to lead to a much open and transparent process.”

A local issue

Education was discussed at one point, and Tiffany’s advice for parents wanting to keep their public schools in check was to make sure they get involved.

“The answer to this is local,” he said. “You need to control your school. And you do that via your board of education and that is how you deal with this issue ... I would say to you the first thing we should do is we should defund and eliminate the Department of Education at the federal level.”

The education department is counterproductive, according to Tiffany, who said local administrators he’s spoken with say they’re “forced to do this, that and whatever.”

“And it really doesn’t advance the education of our children of what most of us want,” he said. “We want our kids to read well, know math, we want them to know science. You know, let’s have them do the basics. That’s what we would like to see done first.”

Trevor Greene may be reached via email at trevor-greene@lakelandtimes.com.

Stella

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specific health issues should contact their physician or healthcare provider, they added.

There are plans to expand the sampling area in Stella and affected property owners will be notified as that effort progresses, the DNR officials said.

During Thursday’s meeting, the officials noted that the expanded well testing is voluntary and notification will take

place within the next 30 to 60 days.

More information about the PFAS contamination in Stella can be found on the Town of Stella website and via the DNR at

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/Stella.html>.

For email updates on this situation, individuals may also subscribe to the PFAS Contamination in the Town of Stella topic.

Heather Schaefer may be reached at heather@rivernewsonline.com.

Referenda

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Supreme Court candidate judge Jennifer Dorow also weighed in on the conservative side of the bail reform question.

“I have long argued for the need to fix Wisconsin’s broken bail system,” Dorow said. “Five years ago, I served on a Legislative Council Study Committee that looked at bail, and I am gratified we will finally have a chance to make some needed changes to our Wisconsin constitution. The law needs to make clear that danger-

ous people accused of serious crimes need to be locked up — period.”

Dorow said public safety must be paramount in all bail decisions.

“In particular, judges should be required to consider the dangerousness of the defendant, the severity of a crime, and the criminal history of the defendant, along with having a viable option to hold dangerous defendants without bail,” she said. “The proposed constitutional amendment aligns with my long-held views and is a step in the right direction. This change is long overdue.”

Zoning

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“No, those are accessory structures by definition although an attached garage is considered part of the principal structure,” he wrote. “We have explained to counties what functional appurtenances are and have provided language that functional appurtenances can be placed at an averaged setback, for example. Please call to discuss.”

However, in the version going to public hearing, the county retained its July proposed revisions.

In August, Rezabek also requested that the county add specific definitions for “access and viewing corridor,” though those do not appear in the most recent proposal.

The DNR also wants the county to adopt various legal instruments to ensure that certain requirements of the ordinance are met. For instance, the zoning director can issue a permit to relax dimensional standards of the ordinance to provide reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities under state and federal law. The current ordinance provides that, where practicable, the relaxed standards are terminated “when the facility is no longer in use by a disabled person.”

Rezabek said the county should make that requirement

legally binding.

“We suggest making it clear that once the need is gone the structure must be removed, using an instrument such as a deed restriction or note,” he wrote.

The county declined to take up that suggestion in the latest proposal.

Shoreyard alteration permits

Perhaps the most controversial section of the proposed revisions deals with the need for shoreyard, or shoreland, alteration permits, or erosion control permits. The need for those permits was front and center in last spring’s public meeting, when landscapers and builders complained about the need for separate permits.

In the July version of the proposed revisions, the county proposed eliminating them altogether, so that building permits would cover any shoreland alterations and land disturbances.

The county would have retained language that prohibited the diversion of water onto adjacent properties and required storm water to be contained within the boundaries of the parcel, unless approval was obtained from local government to allow runoff to be directed to a town road or highway.

Rezabek said absolutely not to the elimination of the permit requirement.

“Counties must regulate and have a permit

ting system in place for all construction etc. including land disturbances, per NR 115.05(4)(a),” he wrote. “An ordinance cannot be certified if it does not have a permitting system in place. If no permit system, how will you know whether there is any erosion or sedimentation?”

As for retaining the language about containing runoff, Rezabek said it underscored the need for a permit requirement.

“This is what the permitting system is for, to ensure that the proposed plan will follow the standards so that erosion and sedimentation, unauthorized filling, etc. will not occur by developing the improvement according to the permitted plan,” he wrote.

In the new version that will head to public hearing, the county put the need for a shoreland alteration permit back in, but it’s unclear that the DNR will find it acceptable because of wide exemptions the permit standard allows.

In the latest version, a shoreyard alteration permit is required for the filling, grading, lagooning, dredging, ditching or excavation of the shoreland, just as in the present ordinance.

And, just as in the present ordinance, too, filling, grading, and excavating within in the vegetative buffer zone is prohibited with the following exceptions: construction of a boat

house, construction of a walkway, and planting vegetation.

Shoreline protection activities authorized by a state permit and erosion control measures approved by the county Land Conservation Department that are designed to remedy significant existing erosion problems are also permitted without a shoreland alteration permit.

Those latter standards for the vegetative buffer also included an permitting exemption for devices or systems used to treat runoff from impervious surfaces. But where the latest proposal takes a sharp turn is the exemptions provided for any project within the shoreland setback that already has a zoning permit.

“A Shoreyard Alteration Permit (SAP) is not required for projects, including any general erosion control, which will be directly addressed within the two (2) year timeframe of an approved zoning permit,” the proposed ordinance states. “However, as with any project, placement of a structure, replacement of an existing structure, etc., contact the Planning and Zoning Department to review whether a permit is required.”

In addition, no shoreland alteration permit would be required for “any land disturbances associated with an issued zoning permit per Article 2 of the Oneida

County Planning and Zoning Shoreline Protection Ordinance.”

Last week, Jennrich explained the change.

“Other counties do not require a separate shoreland alteration permit if a ‘zoning permit’ was issued,” he said. “The thought process is multifaceted. Conditions related to erosion control could be placed on the zoning permit. All new homes have a separate Uniform Dwelling Permit, which erosion control is required as part of that permit.”

In addition, Jennrich said Oneida County has never required a separate shoreland alteration permit (SAP) when a septic system is installed.

“The only time a separate SAP would be required, [is] if an owner wants to do a lot of excavation on a lake lot not associated with a zoning permit,” he said.

In effect the new proposal resurrects the permitting system the DNR demands but then exempts all already permitted projects from the system, accomplishing the original goal of the revision to eliminate most separate erosion control permits, allowing soil erosion to be governed by the building permit.

Whether that will satisfy the DNR remains to be seen, given that the practical effect of the new revision would be the same as that Rezabek objected to in demanding a separate permit for land disturbances.

DOT

From page 1

that there’s a stretch of Highway 17 North to County P that represents a serious public safety issue. Logs are falling off trucks, according to some of the meeting attendees.

“Somebody’s going to die,” one audience member said. “What are you guys going to do about it tomorrow?”

The concern will be referred to the DOT’s maintenance section, Hagenbucher replied.

The agency is soliciting additional public feedback on the upcoming projects. Comments and questions can be emailed to Hagenbucher at 715-365-5770 or stacy.hagenbucher@dot.wi.gov.

A comment form is also available on the project website, <https://wisconsin-dot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/us8oneida/default.aspx>. More information, including maps, is also available on the website.

“None of this is set in stone yet,” Hagenbucher noted. “This is us getting down to what our preferred alternative is.”

Heather Schaefer may be reached at heather@rivernewsonline.com.