

The VILLAGE VOICE

"The Official Publication of the Village Board"
FREE to Every Family in Merrimac



June 2025 - Volume 51, Issue 02

Draft minutes of the Plan Commission Meeting June 2, 2025

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Plan Commission Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Chairperson, Collin Bourgeois at 5:30pm. Commission Members Bob Garrison, Nicole Hartmann, Ann Hoffman, and Bob Pfaff were present. Also in attendance were Administrator Klecker and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. Chairperson Bourgeois examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input: None

Item 3. Joe Krasovec: 151-0247-00000 - Conditional Use Permit to build duplex in B-1 Business District:

Mr. Krasovec presented his plan to ask for a Conditional Use Permit to build a duplex on the Old Varsity Club lot, located at 627 Main Street. Chairperson Bourgeois read through several sections of the Comprehensive Plan relating to housing, economic development, and land use to review whether allowing a residence to be built in that business district adheres to Village planning. After lengthy discussion, Bourgeois/Hoffman motioned to deny the Conditional Use for the duplex due to non-compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Review DRAFT "Amending Village of Merrimac Ordinance No. § 185-50 entitled Fences & Hedges" and provide fence height recommendations to Village Board:

Hoffman/Pfaff motioned to approve DRAFT ordinance 185-50 amending fence height to six feet in back and side yards, and four feet in front or corner side yard. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 5. Review DRAFT "Amending Village of Merrimac Ordinance No. § 185-12 entitled R-1 Single-Family Residential

District" and provide recommendation to Village Board on reduction to principal building floor space:

The Commission discussed the pros and cons of various square footage minimums before coming to an agreement to set 900 sqft of livable space (exclusive of attached garages, porches, decks, etc.) as the new minimum. Pfaff/Hoffman motioned to edit the DRAFT amendment to set the principal building minimum square footage to 900 sqft of livable space. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 6. Review DRAFT "Amending Village of Merrimac Ordinance No. § 185-13 entitled R-2 Single- and Two-Family Residential District" and provide recommendation to Village Board on reduction to principal building floor space:

Pfaff/Hoffman motioned to edit the DRAFT amendment to set the principal building minimum square footage to 900 sqft of livable space. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 7. Review DRAFT "Amending Village of Merrimac Ordinance No. § 185-14 entitled R-2 Multifamily Residential District" and provide recommendation to Village Board on reduction to principal building floor space:

Pfaff/Hoffman motioned to edit the DRAFT amendment to set the principal building minimum square footage to 900 sqft of livable space. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 8. Comprehensive Plan Update: Review current status and set completion goal:

The Commission members discussed the current status of the Comprehensive Plan Update and came to the conclusion that a new strategy is needed to get the update completed. The group decided to divide up the elements equally amongst the members and work on them independently. They will be combining information from the First Impression Report, the S.W.O.T., the old plan, and the new draft document to come up with a more in-depth final product.

Item 9. Adjourn: At 7:43pm Garrison/Hartmann motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Draft minutes of the Parks & Recreation Committee June 5, 2025

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Parks and Recreation Meeting was called to order in Village Hall by Chairperson Nate Taylor at 7:00pm. Committee members Amy Buck, Tim Klecker, and Jennifer Thompson, with June Krbeczek absent. Also in attendance were Administrator Jennie Klecker, and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. Chairperson Taylor examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public input: None

Item 3. Green Merrimac: Landscaping Memorial Park steps:

Green Merrimac would like to prune the Crab Apple tree, clean up the flower beds on the sides of the stairs, and plant perennials and pollinator plants at Memorial Park. Taylor told them to move forward with getting volunteers together and put their ideas and plans in place.

Item 4. Pavilion Update: Buck and Krbeczek are spear heading the marketing materials to get the community involved and raise money for the Pavilion project. To get on Cleary's build schedule a down payment of \$10,676 is needed, which is 10% of total cost. The total Pavilion cost is quoted at \$53,381. This includes the site prep, cement work and construction of the Pavilion. Taylor will ask the Village Board to approve the down payment at the next board meeting. There are 2 more payments due at specific points in the project timeline. Jennie stated the Pavilion will be on the Village Board meeting to get a formal vote and decision from the board. The festival committee agreed to donate the proceeds from this year's festival to the Pavilion project. A promotional sign will be

on display during the festival and the festival committee will accept donations for the project. Taylor is exploring DNR and state grants to help pay for the project.

Item 5. Merrimac Community Festival discussion: The Festival Committee has received \$11,000 in pre-donations and sponsorships compared to last year which was \$4,500.

Item 6. Budget: Allocation of funds for marketing/fundraising: Taylor is going to ask the Village Board to look at the budget to see how the down payment could be made now, until the Parks & Rec committee raises funds to pay it back. Thompson asked if we were going to use the \$7,500 in the Parks and Rec budget for the down payment. Taylor and T.Klecker agree that those funds should be kept in the Parks and Rec budget for now. Taylor would like to ensure that any funds loaned from the General Fund are paid back by the end of the 2025 fiscal year.

Item 7. Village Administrator's Report: Sunrise Shore Update: All brush is out of the area, the shoreline is cleaned up and mostly level, and grass seed has been planted. There are some water issues that need to be looked at due to the topography of the property. There is some shoreline work that can be done before winter, however, the volunteers have run out of time to do much more this year. All work done so far has been all volunteer time, money and equipment. T. Klecker suggested that receipts for any money spent by volunteers should be turned in for reimbursement. This is not a 1-year project and work will continue until the park is done. T. Klecker would like to look further into the road right of way that the Village owns in the area to see how it can be used to improve park access.

Item 8. Open Discussion on future projects and goals: The group discussed having the second Village park property and road right of way surveyed in the Sunrise Shore development. T. Klecker mentioned that the committee needs to evaluate the cost to complete the shoreline and determine how the committee should allocate their \$7,500 budget.

Item 9. Adjourn: At 8:10pm Thompson/T.Klecker motioned to adjourn, All Ayes, Motion carried.

called to order in Village Hall by Village President Andrew Gallus at 5:30pm. Village Trustees Collin Bourgeois, Margaret Budde, Stan Senger, and Nate Taylor were present. Also in attendance were DPW Justin Schultz, Administrator Jennie Klecker, and members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. President Gallus examined the affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Public Input: Cheryl Anderson invited all Board members to attend the upcoming Merrimac Festival this Saturday, June 14th at Memorial Park. She also spoke about the new Merrimac Community Compost bin recently installed in the parking lot at Village Hall. The bin has instructions on it and more information is available on the Village website. Green Merrimac has a booth at the Festival to demonstrate how the compost bin works for anyone interested in a "hands-on" experience. Bart Olson voiced concern about the Colsac Lodge using 2 liquor licenses. He also voiced support for the new owner of the old Varsity Club to tear it down and build a duplex.

Item 3. Review Consent Agenda: Senger/Taylor motioned to approve the consent agenda. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 4. Approval of Village Bills: Gallus/Budde motioned to approve payment of outstanding monthly bills as listed on items 4.i.-4.iv. of the Agenda. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 5. Liquor License, Operator's Permits, & Tobacco License Applications: Annual Alcohol Beverage License Class "B" Beer renewal application for: a. Candy's Merrimac Café; Gallus/Taylor motioned to approve a Class "B" Beer license for Candy's Merrimac Café. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Annual Liquor License Class B Combination (BLB) renewal application and Operator's Permits for: b. Mac's Pub & Grub; Gallus/Budde motioned to approve a Class B Combination (BLB) Liquor License and Operator's Permits for Mac's Pub & Grub. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Original Liquor License Class B Combination application and Operator's Permits for: c. Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill (AMM Enterprises, LLC) with Tobacco License Application; Gallus/Budde motioned to approve an Original Class B Combination (BLB) Liquor

License, Tobacco License, and Operator's Permits for Ferry X-ing Bar and Grill. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** H's Place (H's Place Restaurant, LLC); Gallus/Bourgeois motioned to approve an Original Class B Combination (BLB) Liquor License for H's Place. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** e. The Ripley (Colsac Lodge, LLC); Gallus/Taylor motioned to approve an Original Class B Combination (BLB) Liquor License for The Ripley. All Ayes, **Motion Carried.** f. Business Continuation Ordinance Extension for H's Place and The Ripley; Taylor/Gallus motioned grant an extension to the Business Continuation Ordinance for one year as the Colsac Lodge is constructed. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 6. Report of the Plan Commission: a. Consider approval of rezone request by Krasovec for parcel 151-0247-00000 (Tabled item from April); Gallus/Taylor motioned to deny the request to rezone from B-1 Business to R-2 Residential, with Bourgeois, Senger, Taylor voting Aye and Budde voting Nay. **Motion Passed.** b. Recommendation on Krasovec Conditional Use Permit to Build Duplex in B-1 Business District; Plan Commission Chairperson Bourgeois explained that after reviewing the Village's Comprehensive Plan sections pertaining to housing, Economic Development, and Land Use, the Plan Commission members found the proposed duplex goes against the plan to promote business development on the west end of the Village, does not promote affordable or senior housing, and does not adhere to future land use planning. For those reasons, the Plan Commission voted unanimously to deny Mr. Krasovec's request for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a duplex on his property. Several Trustees did not feel like they had enough information to make a decision. Budde/Taylor motioned to table pending more definite building plans submitted by the property owner. All Ayes. **Motion Passed.** Administrator Klecker will research whether two primary independent structures, one being R-2 Residential and one being B-1 Business, are allowable on the same property under Conditional Use. c. Recommendation on Resolution on Amending Fence Ordinance; The Plan Commission voted to recommend the Board approve the DRAFT resolution amending fence height from 5 feet to 6 feet maximum height in back and side yards, and 4 feet in front or side yards. Gallus/Budde motioned to approve DRAFT

**Draft minutes of the Village Board
Meeting June 10, 2025**

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Board of Trustees Meeting was

Resolution Amending Fence Height with no changes. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** d. Recommendation on Resolutions on Amending Minimum Principal Building Sqft for Residential Zoning; The Plan Commission recommended the Board approve Draft Resolutions Amending Minimum Principal Building Sqft from 1200 to 900sqft of livable space. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** There will be a public hearing on these zoning amendments at the beginning of the July 8 Village Board meeting. Members of the public wishing to comment on these changes are encouraged to attend.

Item 7. Report of Parks & Recreation: Parks and Recreation Chairperson Taylor summarized the June 2 meeting. Good progress is being made at Sunrise Shore Park, with all overgrown brush removed and grass seed planted. a. Downpayment for Memorial Park Pavilion II; Chairperson Taylor informed the Board that in order to get on Cleary's build schedule for next summer, a 10% downpayment of \$10,676 is needed. The Board discussed the need to get estimates on potential additional costs associated with site grading and parking. Trustees had questions about how the remaining balance would be funded. Parks & Rec is spearheading a campaign to solicit donations and are exploring grant options to help pay for the Pavilion. The Festival Committee has pledged to donate all 2025 Festival proceeds to the Pavilion project. The Board asked Parks and Rec to present a site plan and funding proposal before agreeing to approve the downpayment.

Item 8. Report of the Director of Public Works: a. Scag Mower Replacement; DPW Schultz informed the Board that the Scag Mower motor failed and was replaced by Merrimac Powersports at a cost of \$4,400. Since the mower is 4 years old with 500 hours, DPW Schultz suggested the Board consider looking at options to sell it next year and purchase a new one. b. Wellhouse No.1 Update; Final finishes are being done on the Wellhouse Update with a project completion date expected mid to end of July. Also, the new monitoring well is scheduled to be installed at the WWTP on June 16.

Item 9. Report of the Administrator: a. Consider purchase of additional Express Voting Machine for 2026 Budget; Administrator Klecker and Deputy Clerk

Stevens had the opportunity to try out the new election equipment being purchased by Sauk County. The current equipment is 10 years old and newer versions are now available. The county will supply each municipality with one new DS300 and ExpressVote machine at no cost. Municipalities wishing to purchase additional ExpressVote machines at a cost of \$4,880, need to let the county know by July 25. Gallus/Senger motioned to decline purchasing an additional machine at this time. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** b. Colsac Lodge Groundbreaking Ceremony; Administrator Klecker welcomed all Board Members to attend and participate in the Colsac Lodge Groundbreaking Ceremony on June 24 at 11:00am. c. Village Support for Merrimac Fire & Rescue purchase of new fire truck to replace totaled 2002 tanker; Trustee Senger informed the Board that Merrimac Fire and Rescue will be selling an old fire truck and taking out a loan to purchase a new one to replace the recently totaled 2002 tanker. There may be a balance remaining after the sale, which the Village of Merrimac, Town of Merrimac, and Town of Caledonia would be responsible for paying. Gallus/Budde motioned to support Merrimac Fire & Rescue's purchase of the new truck and the sale of the E2 truck. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 12. Adjourn: At 7:39pm, Budde/Senger motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Draft minutes of the Board of Appeals Hearing June 16, 2025

Item 1. Call to Order: The Village of Merrimac Board of Appeals Hearing was called to order in Village Hall by Administrator Klecker at 5:30pm. Board of Appeals Members Cheryl Anderson, Amy Buffardi, Ann Hoffman, Bart Olson, and Phil Strathman were present, as well as members of the public, as listed on the sign-in sheet. Administrator Klecker stated that the first point of order is to nominate a hearing Chairperson. Anderson/Olson motioned to nominate Ann Hoffman as Chairperson. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Chairperson Hoffman examined the Affidavit of posting and confirmed that advance public notice of the meeting conformed to statutory requirements.

Item 2. Consider Variance Request/Appeal of Administrative Decision for Kerry Grosse and Mary Ripp. Location: 110 Palisade Court: Kerry Grosse explained to the Board that he intended to build a simple lean-to structure next to his garage, but it turned into a larger project after he added walls and a garage door. He was issued a stop work order by Village Building Inspector Matt Paske after Administrator Klecker called for an inspection. Mr. Paske observed that a 12 x 35ft attached garage had been constructed 8 feet into the 10-foot side yard setback. Administrator Klecker sent Mr. Grosse and Ms. Ripp a letter ordering the removal of the unlawful structure and issued a red tag fine of \$150 for failure to obtain a building permit prior to beginning construction. Mr. Grosse is asking for an 8-foot variance and a reversal of administrative decision. John Holzbauer, President of Merrimac Landing Condominium Owners Association, submitted a letter supporting the variance request due to having no adjacent homes to the east and limited visibility to the other homeowners. The Board members then reviewed a letter submitted by Wisconsin & Southern Railroad, who are adjacent landowners, asking the Village to deny the variance request and again order the unauthorized structure and driveway to be removed immediately. Buffardi/Anderson motioned to deny the request for an 8-foot variance. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.** Hoffman/Anderson motioned to uphold the administrative decision that ordered the unlawful structure be removed. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Item 3. Adjourn: At 5:57pm, Buffardi/Hoffman motioned to adjourn. All Ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Klecker

Jennie Klecker
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

Next Village Board Meeting
July 08, 2025
5:30 PM @ Village Hall
A public hearing will be held at the beginning of the meeting to allow public comment on several proposed zoning amendments.

AA Meetings

Wednesday Evenings 7:00pm
@ Memorial Park Pavilion - Questions?
Contact Chuck @ 608-795-0050

Recycling Pickup Dates:



July 7 & 21

Brush Pick-up Dates

July 9 & 23

Scrap metal recycling dumpster is back for the season. Located in the Village Hall parking lot.

METAL ONLY! No TV's Please!

Bar Buddies needs drivers!

Call Cat for more information
847-371-1918



Another exciting informative talk sponsored by Green Merrimac!

The Pros and Cons of Solar Energy Installations and an update on tax credits and incentives

Presented by Keith and Lisa Kahlow with All Sky Energy

Thursday July 17 at 6pm at the Merrimac Village Hall

ALL SKY ENERGY

Solar PV & EV Charging Station Installer

www.allskyenergy.com



All are welcome. Bring your questions.
Sponsored by Green Merrimac



Merrimac Fire & Rescue Annual Fireworks Show! Saturday, July 5, 2025

On the corner of
Hwy 78 & Idlewild Road

- * \$5.00 a carload
- * Gate opens @5pm
- * Show starts at dusk

NEW THIS YEAR: Food Trucks!!!

Kona Ice, Lunchbox Express, and Donut Envy will be on-site serving up delicious treats before the show!

Bring your blankets & lawn chairs, but please leave your fireworks & grills at home.

Important Information for Village of Merrimac Water Utility Customers:

The 2024 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) of the **MERRIMAC WATERWORKS** (Public Water System ID 15700938) is now available.

Official copies are posted in the following places:

merrimacwi.gov/officialpostings
Merrimac Post Office
Merrimac Village Hall

You may also request to receive a copy of the CCR by mail, by email, or by hand. Contact us at merrimac@merrimacwi.gov or 608-493-2122

Village Hall will be closed Friday, July 4th

Have a safe & happy 4th of July!



The Village would like to extend a very heartfelt *thank you* to The Merrimac Festival Committee, event day volunteers, sponsors, and all those involved with putting on this year's Merrimac Community Festival!

Diamond Sponsors: Frosch Tree Service, Palmer Manufacturing, Springfield Welding, Sullivan Lawncare, Classic Custom Homes, and Ann and Terry Hoffman (In loving memory of Sean Mick).

Gold Sponsors: Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill, Consumers Cooperative, Strand Associates, and Precision Design Build.

Silver Sponsors: Ferrylanding Marine, Merry Mac's, Prairie Plumbing & Heating, Bank of Prairie du Sac, GEC, Terrytown Plumbing, Cleary Building, Municipal Group, Peterson Sanitation, and Dale Kowalski.

Copper Sponsors: Merrimac Powersports, Grothman & Associates, CTW Corp, J&J Fireball Lanes, Village Family Dental, and Cheryl Anderson.

Raffle Sponsors: Springfield Welding, Lucky's on the Lake, Piggly Wiggly, Farm & Fleet, Ferry X-ing Bar & Grill, Sun Step Financial, Frey Construction, and Subway.

A Special Thank You To: Our talented musicians Harriet & Paul Larson, Panchromatic Steel, and The Madtown Mannish boys, the Mad City Ski Team for putting on another amazing show, Jack Shoepf and the amateur watersports competitors, and the wonderful craft and food vendors.

And last but certainly not least, we would like to thank all of **YOU** for showing your support through donations and attending the Festival.

Thank you!!!