

**Town of La Pointe
Community Awards Committee
September 15, 2015**

Members present: Glenn Carlson, Elizabeth Ellis, Suellen Soucek and Gary Rieman

Members absent:

Town Staff present: Lisa Potswald, Interim Town Administrator, Planning and Zoning Administrator and Grant Writer.

Public present:

Lisa Potswald introduced herself and said she will be the liaison for the Community Awards Committee so if there is something the committee needs or if there are questions, please contact her. Thank you to Lisa from the Committee. Lisa leaves the meeting

1. Call to order.

The Community Awards Committee meeting called to order by Glenn on Thursday, September 15, 2015 at 4:07pm at the Town Hall. A quorum of the committee is present as reflected in the members listed above.

2. Public Comment.

No public comment.

3. Election of Committee Officers.

Glenn nominates Elizabeth Ellis as Chair of the Community Awards Committee, second, Suellen. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Suellen to nominate Glenn Carlson as vice chair. Discussion.

Do we need a vice-chair? Glenn said he would prefer to be treasurer. So moved by Elizabeth, second Gary. All in favor all aye, motion carried.

4. Minutes of the following meetings to be considered for approval:

A. May 15, 2014.

Motion by Glenn to approve the May 15, 2015 Community Awards Committee minutes as presented, second, Gary. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

5. Discussion of Awards Process for 2015/2016.

Elizabeth now chairs the meeting. Elizabeth said she has a background in non profits and understands the importance of the recognition of volunteers who do more than their fair share. Glenn has been a member of the committee since the beginning and said the committee came up with the nomination form, changed deadlines and timelines with Town Board approval, published a letter in the Gazette and waited for nominations to come in.

No nominations came in.

Suellen thinks people are waiting for this committee to start the ball rolling.

Discussion of incentives. Suggestion that businesses could give something to honorees, or perhaps Senator Tammy Baldwin could stand up in the Senate to say she would like to talk about an honoree who received an award from the Town of La Pointe and she would like the Senate to acknowledge that award. Representative Sean Duffy could do the same in the House. The honoree would then get a certificate or plaque from the Senate or House. Agreement we need to get something going.

Elizabeth said from her perspective, the lack of participation seems to be 'so what'. In that regard, what are the awards and who do they recognize? This could be the committee's role. If you are nominated, this is what you receive. To be noted is that there are many people who do great things and do not expect anything. The challenge would be to find out what the honoree appreciates. There are also people who do not want plaques or recognition.

Glenn said the Community Appreciation Award is an award for what has been done in the past year. The Hall of Fame is a lifetime achievement award such as serving as Town Chair for many years or for accumulative accomplishments over the course of many years. The Hall of Fame award is for service to the Town, not an organization. The Roll of Honor honors the Armed Services.

Glenn said the process is as follows: A deadline is set for when nominations are submitted. The committee discusses the nominees and makes a recommendation to the Town Board for each category. The Town Board has reserved the right to ratify our recommendations in order to make the recommendation an official act of the Town. The deadline for 2015 was April 1st. No names have been submitted.

Gary asked if we could get this rolling by getting nominations in this year for last year. If we wait to make a selection by May of 2016 we will have spent another whole year without anything happening. So, can we think of people that ought to be recognized?

The deadline could be December 31st. Glenn said the deadline of April 1 was selected so that the committee had April to consider the nominee(s) and make their recommendation to the Town Board. The Town Board would then decide at a May Town Board meeting. There would be an announcement or presentation in July. If the deadline was December 31st you could still honor the person in July of the next year.

Discussion if the person selected could be honored as the Grand Marshal in the 4th of July parade. This could possibly raise cohesiveness, give value to the community awards committee and be able to say, this is how the grand marshal(s) are chosen. Glenn likes the idea. Suellen does not think this should be done on the Fourth as everyone is so busy, working 7 days a week. This award is more of a community event and Suellen does not think that the crowds that come here are really going to care. Elizabeth said when she thinks of awards she thinks of the Fourth which is a community event, our event. We would raise visibility and authenticity and importance to this committee. Glenn likes the idea of people getting recognized on the Fourth but perhaps there could be a presentation at a Town Board meeting. Agreement a small luncheon or gathering might be in order in addition to being the grand marshal, depending on the preference of the honoree. The Fourth would be just one part of the honor but not the big deal. Suellen agrees.

Discussion of the timeline. Summer people have left and will not be back until May so how do we communicate? Suellen said once we are out in the community we can let people know what the procedure is. Suggestion to post a deadline of September 28th on Facebook. Could get an article in the gazette between now and December 31st. Gary said this would be a lot of effort to get something out. He thinks this is up to the committee, as private citizens, to nominate for this first year otherwise we will still be talking about this in May of 2016. Nominate someone and start the process. What is happening in our community that is worth recognition? Agreement – a lot.

Agreement that each individual committee member will nominate at least two people. Fill out the form and submit or ask people to fill out the form. If the committee wants something to

happen, this has to start with the committee. Consensus of the committee that the deadline will be December 31, 2015 for this year. The committee will begin again next year.

6. Set next Agenda and Schedule Next Meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at 4:30pm at Town Hall. Agenda item: Begin discussion of nominees.

7. Adjourn.

Motion by Glenn to adjourn, second, Elizabeth. All in favor, all aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5pm.

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant. Minutes approved as presented September 29, 2015