

Introduction

The Town of Sherman is located in the “lakes region” of southern Iron County. It borders three counties, including Ashland, Price, and Vilas. Bordering towns include the Towns of Agenda, Eisenstein, Fifield, Lac du Flambeau, Manitowish Waters, and Mercer. See Map 1.0 for location.

History

The Town of Sherman, originally called Emerson, was created on April 19th, 1907 from the Town of Vaughn. The town was named after D.W. Emerson, one of the town’s first settlers who established the Emerson Sawmill. The Emerson Sawmill closed around 1909 after a lightning struck and killed three members of the Emerson family. The name of the town was changed in 1918 from the Town of Emerson to the Town of Sherman in honor of the town’s second chairman William Sherman.

Ample natural resources and reliable transportation to move products and people was key to communities in Iron County. Some settlements failed to grow or faltered if either of these two components were missing. Emerson and Powell are two known communities that have been lost in the Town of Sherman over the years.

Sherman’s high quality, highly desirable lakes, rivers, and forestlands have so far sustained development demand from persons interested in relocating to the community, whether for second homes for recreational purposes, for purchasing property for investment purposes, or for retirement homes. Sherman’s “northwoods character” and lake country ambiance continues to draw more permanent residents and visitors each year.

Background

In 1998, a land use planning committee was directed by the town board to guide the Town of Sherman land use planning process. The committee consisted of a cross section of property owners, both lakeshore and non-shoreland, along with town board members and local business interests. The land use planning committee spent 3½ years developing land use recommendations regarding the future of the Town of Sherman. In January 2002 the Town of Sherman approved the “*Town of Sherman Land Use Plan*.”

Some of the information included in that plan was utilized in the development of this planning effort, which began in 2001 when all ten towns in Iron County passed resolutions entering into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement for the purposes of developing a comprehensive plan. All plans were developed at the local level using direct input from local citizens. Iron County, being the lead applicant in the process, contracted with Northwest Regional Planning Commission (Northwest Regional Planning Commission) to serve as the primary consultant in preparing the application and, if funded, the comprehensive plans. The application for state grant funds to prepare the comprehensive plans was subsequently funded in March 2002. Other significant proceedings as part of the overall planning process included the adoption of the Town of Sherman Public Participation Plan (November 30, 2004) and development and analysis of a community-wide survey sent to each property owner throughout the town. Overall, a 36.9 percent response rate was obtained from the community-wide survey.

Purpose of Plan

The Town of Sherman Comprehensive Plan is intended to assist local officials in making future land decisions regarding growth and management issues. The plan will also address short-and long-term concerns regarding growth, development, and preservation of the community. The Town of Sherman Comprehensive Plan has been prepared under Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning legislation contained in Wisconsin Statute 66.1001. The plan is organized into nine chapters or elements. These include:

- Issues and Opportunities
- Housing
- Transportation
- Utilities and Community Facilities
- Natural, Agricultural, and Cultural Resources
- Economic Development
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Land Use
- Implementation