

August 15, 2019

Memo: Sauk County Conservation, Planning & Zoning Committee
Sauk County Board of Supervisors

From: Tim McCumber, Town Administrator & Clerk - Treasurer

RE: Town of Merrimac Zoning Amendment

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Merrimac held on August 14, 2019, and after a public hearing held on the same date, approved the following Town of Merrimac Planning & Zoning Ordinance amendments (Ordinance 2019-34):

Commercial Crossroads District

8.04: The following uses may be permitted subject to a conditional use permit:

5. Wedding Barns. Any building historically used for farming, located on a farm or formerly used as for farm operation, may not be converted over to a land use primarily used for wedding receptions and/or similar social events. Such venues shall only be located in the Commercial Crossroads District. Farm operators are exempt from this requirement if they are hosting less than three (3) events per year.

The ordinance also renumerates the following sections of the ordinance:

Section 2.30 entitled Park Fees as adopted December 1, 2004 is renumbered Section 2.4. Section 2.30 entitled Vacation Rental Establishments as adopted on March 5, 2014 (and later amended on February 12, 2017 and May 1, 2019) remains the Section 2.30.

Section 2.31 entitled Camping as adopted December 1, 2004 is renumbered Section 2.5.

These proposed amendments were recommended for approval by the Planning & Zoning Commission, with input from Mike Slavney, the town's planner from Vandewalle & Associates. The Zoning Commission also met regarding these amendments on June 19, 2019 following a public hearing also held on the same date.

The legislature passed a state statute that allows venues, such as wedding barns, to be established without the requirement of obtaining an alcohol license. This ordinance assures that any such venues are not located in residential neighborhoods. It also assures that farm operators can continue host private events without having to establish themselves in a commercial district.