Chairman Willingham called the public hearing to order at 3:06 P.M. Members present were Willingham, Schneider, Costello and Mai. Taylor was absent. The purpose of the hearing was to allow a bar on the SE¼-SE¼, Section 12, T33N, R6W in the Town of Willard. Property owner: Jacquelyne Nitek.

Zoning Administrator, CeCe Tesky read the notice that was put in the paper and she said the notice meets all requirements. CeCe read the letter from the Town of Willard indicating their approval of the application.

Willingham asked for anyone in favor of the request. James Nitek was present. He said they have been working on the project a long time and want to be able to turn the camp store into a bar. He passed around pictures of the current building, which showed the addition and new restrooms, along with a petition signed by several people showing their support of the bar. CeCe verified that the septic system for this building and the dump station has been installed.

Willingham asked for anyone against the request. Genevieve Dutter was present. She owns property across the road and she doesn’t feel that a bar is compatible with surrounding land uses. She pointed out that the ordinance states that domestic uses shall be preferred. She is worried that her property will be devalued. She is opposed to the request.

Willingham asked for anyone in favor of the request. Jason Gillis was present. He said that he’s shocked that the board granted the campground and not the bar after the last public hearing. He visited Jimmy’s World in the past with his family and didn’t find the bar to be problematic. His current business could benefit from the people using the campground/bar. Owners should be able to do what they want with their property, within reason.

Willingham asked for anyone against the request. Jeff Hayden was present. He said they went through this a number of times already and it should be a fairly easy decision for the committee to make. It started in 2000-2004. The board was told by the DNR, Army Corps of Engineers, etc that it was a bad idea. He doesn’t see why the campground can’t be run without a bar. New FEMA floodplain maps concern him too. The DNR was concerned about this many years ago. Domestic uses are preferred in the area. A bar is not a family orientated business in his mind. The committee denied the bar 1 month ago and he doesn’t think the committee should agree to the bar once it’s denied. He feels the committee should make a ruling that people cannot reapply within 1 year of being denied.

Willingham asked for anyone in favor of the request. John Stencil was present. He is on the tourism committee and is aware that people have rented entertainment facilities in other counties because there is a lack of facilities in Rusk County. He would like people to be able to use places in Rusk County. There are rules in place of how things should be run and the Sheriff’s Department enforces these things. Licenses can be revoked and/or denied if the owners are not
operating properly. The town is not objecting and it would be helpful to the county to grant the bar permit.

Willingham asked for anyone against the request. Pam Hayden was present. She said that the committee already approved the campground, why is the bar good for tourism? Has the board looked at their decision from last time? The Niteks have been given many extensions. Financial concerns have nothing to do with zoning. She said that the zoning committee needs to get an ordinance to only allow people to apply 1-2 times a year because it is cheaper for them to reapply than to go to the Board of Adjustment. The Niteks say they need the bar because of the snowmobile trail, but that isn’t true. Could they turn it into an adult entertainment eventually? Domestic use is preferred. There are new neighbors a ½ mile down the road with 5 children. There is no need for a bar in shoreland. There will be social disturbance in our area if the bar is approved and the committee should be separating conflicting land uses. The committee will be causing a great conflict if it’s approved.

Willingham asked for anyone in favor of the request. Jason Gillis spoke again. He’s lived next to Flambeau Lodge over 30 years. He cannot see the campground making it without the bar. There may be some minor conflicts from time to time, but nothing that can’t be solved.

Willingham asked for anyone against the request. Pam Hayden spoke again. She asked how long Flambeau Lodge has been there. Gillis said over 30 years. Hayden said that the lodge was there before the people and it’s not the case where she lives.

Willingham asked for anyone in favor of the request. No one else present.

Willingham asked for anyone against the request. Jeff Hayden spoke again. He asked how a bar promotes public health and safety.

Willingham asked three times for anyone in favor or against the request. No one else spoke.

Closed the Public Hearing at 3:29 P.M.

Monica Kenealy, Secretary/Bookkeeper